

1 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted.) Distinguished Mr. President, ladies and  
2 gentlemen: Negotiations with the President of the United States Donald Trump took  
3 place in a frank and businesslike atmosphere. I think we can call it a success and a  
4 very fruitful round of negotiations.

5 We carefully analyzed the current status — the present and the future of the Russia-  
6 United States relationship; key issues of the global agenda. It's quite clear to  
7 everyone that the bilateral relationship are going through a complicated stage, and  
8 yet those impediments — the current tension, the tense atmosphere — essentially  
9 have no solid reason behind it.

10 The Cold War is a thing of past. The era of acute ideological confrontation of the two  
11 countries is a thing of the remote past, is a vestige of the past. The situation in the  
12 world changed dramatically.

13 Today, both Russia and the United States face a whole new set of challenges. Those  
14 include a dangerous maladjustment of mechanisms for maintaining international  
15 security and stability, regional crises, the creeping threats of terrorism and  
16 transnational crime. It's the snowballing problems in the economy, environmental  
17 risks, and other sets of challenges. We can only cope with these challenges if we join  
18 the ranks and work together. Hopefully, we will reach this understanding with our  
19 American partners.

20 Today's negotiations reflected our joint wish — our joint wish with President Trump to  
21 redress this negative situation and bilateral relationship, outline the first steps for  
22 improving this relationship to restore the acceptable level of trust, and going back to  
23 the previous level of interaction on all mutual interests issues.

24 As major nuclear powers, we bear special responsibility for maintaining international  
25 security. And it made it vital — and we mentioned this during the negotiations — it's  
26 crucial that we fine-tune the dialogue on strategic stability and global security and  
27 nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We submitted our American  
28 colleagues a note with a number of specific suggestions.

29 We believe it necessary to work together further to interact on the disarmament  
30 agenda, military, and technical cooperation. This includes the extension of the  
31 Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation Treaty. It's a dangerous situation with the global

32 American anti-missile defense system; it's the implementation issues with the INF  
33 treaty; and, of course, the agenda of non-placement of weapons in space.

34 We favor the continued cooperation in counterterrorism and maintaining  
35 cybersecurity. And I'd like to point out specifically that our special services are  
36 cooperating quite successfully together. The most recent example is their operational  
37 cooperation within the recently concluded World Football Cup.

38 In general, the contacts among the special services should be put to a system-wide  
39 basis — should be brought to a systemic framework. I recall — I reminded President  
40 Trump about the suggestion to reestablish the working group on antiterrorism.

41 We also mentioned a plethora of regional crises. It's not always that our postures  
42 dovetail exactly. And yet, the overlapping and mutual interests abound. We have to  
43 look for points of contact and interact closer in a variety of international fora.

44 Clearly, we mentioned the regional crisis; for instance, Syria. As far as Syria is  
45 concerned, the task of establishing peace and reconciliation in this country could be  
46 the first showcase example of this successful joint work. Russia and the United States  
47 apparently can act proactively and take — assume the leadership on this issue, and  
48 organize the interaction to overcome humanitarian crisis, and help Syrian refugees to  
49 go back to their homes.

50 In order to accomplish this level of successful cooperation in Syria, we have all the  
51 required components. Let me remind you that both Russian and American military  
52 have acquired a useful experience of coordination of their action, established the  
53 operational channels of communication which permitted to avoid dangerous  
54 incidents and unintentional collisions in the air and in the ground.

55 Also, crushing terrorists in the southwest of Syria — the south of Syria — should be  
56 brought to the full compliance with the Treaty of 1974 about the separation of forces  
57 — about separation of forces of Israel and Syria. This will bring peace to Golan Heights  
58 and bring a more peaceful relationship between Syria and Israel, and also to provide  
59 security of the state of Israel.

60 Mr. President paid special attention to the issue during today's negotiations, and I  
61 would like to confirm that Russia is interested in this development, and this will act  
62 accordingly. Thus far, we will make a step toward creating a lasting peace in

63 compliance with the respective resolutions of Security Council, for instance, the  
64 Resolution 338.

65 We're glad that the Korean Peninsula issue is starting to resolve. To a great extent, it  
66 was possible thanks to the personal engagement of President Trump, who opted for  
67 dialogue instead of confrontation.

68 You know, we also mentioned our concern about the withdrawal of the United States  
69 from the JCPOA. Well, the U.S. — our U.S. counterparts are aware of our posture. Let  
70 me remind you that thanks to the Iranian nuclear deal, Iran became the most  
71 controlled country in the world; it submitted to the control of IAEA. It effectively  
72 ensures the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program and  
73 strengthens the nonproliferation regime.

74 While we discussed the internal Ukrainian crisis, we paid special attention to the bona  
75 fide implementation of Minsk Agreements by Kiev. At the same time, the United  
76 States could be more decisive in nudging the Ukrainian leadership and encourage it to  
77 work actively on this. We paid more attention to economic ties and economic  
78 cooperation. It's clear that both countries — the businesses of both countries are  
79 interested in this.

80 The American delegation was one of the largest delegations in the St. Petersburg  
81 economic forum. It featured over 500 representatives from American businesses. We  
82 agreed — me and President Trump — we agreed to create the high-level working  
83 group that would bring together captains of Russian and American business. After all,  
84 entrepreneurs and businessmen know better how to articulate this successful  
85 business cooperation. We'll let them think and make their proposals and their  
86 suggestions in this regard.

87 Once again, President Trump mentioned the issue of the so-called interference of  
88 Russia when the American elections, and I had to reiterate things I said several times,  
89 including during our personal contacts, that the Russian state has never interfered  
90 and is not going to interfere into internal American affairs, including the election  
91 process.

92 Any specific material, if such things arise, we are ready to analyze together. For  
93 instance, we can analyze them through the joint working group on cybersecurity, the  
94 establishment of which we discussed during our previous contacts.

95 And clearly, it's past time we restore our cooperation in the cultural area, in the  
96 humanitarian area, as far as — I think you know that recently we hosted the American  
97 congressmen delegation, and now it's perceived and portrayed almost as a historic  
98 event, although it should have been just a current affairs — just business as  
99 usual. And in this regard, we mentioned this proposal to the President.

100 But we have to think about the practicalities of our cooperation, but also about the  
101 rationale — the underlying logic of it. And we have to engage experts on bilateral  
102 relationship who know history and the background of our relationship. The idea is to  
103 create an expert council that would include political scientists, prominent diplomats,  
104 and former military experts from both countries who would look for points of contact  
105 between the two countries, that would look for ways on putting the relationship on  
106 the trajectory of growth.

107 In general, we are glad with the outcome of our first full-scale meeting because  
108 previously we only had a chance to talk briefly on international fora. We had a good  
109 conversation with President Trump, and I hope that we start to understand each other  
110 better. And I'm grateful to Donald for it.

111 Clearly, there are some challenges left when we were not able to clear all the  
112 backlog. But I think that we made a first important step in this direction.

113 And in conclusion, I want to point out that this atmosphere of cooperation is  
114 something that we are especially grateful for to our Finnish hosts. We're grateful for  
115 Finnish people and Finnish leadership for what they've done. I know that we've  
116 caused some inconvenience to Finland, and we apologize for it.

117 Thank you for your attention.

118 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you very much.

119 Thank you. I have just concluded a meeting with President Putin on a wide range of  
120 critical issues for both of our countries. We had direct, open, deeply productive  
121 dialogue. It went very well.

122 Before I begin, I want to thank President Niinistö of Finland for graciously hosting  
123 today's summit. President Putin and I were saying how lovely it was and what a great  
124 job they did.

125 I also want to congratulate Russia and President Putin for having done such an  
126 excellent job in hosting the World Cup. It was really one of the best ever and your  
127 team also did very well. It was a great job.

128 I'm here today to continue the proud tradition of bold American diplomacy. From the  
129 earliest days of our republic, American leaders have understood that diplomacy and  
130 engagement is preferable to conflict and hostility. A productive dialogue is not only  
131 good for the United States and good for Russia, but it is good for the world.

132 The disagreements between our two countries are well known, and President Putin  
133 and I discussed them at length today. But if we're going to solve many of the  
134 problems facing our world, then we are going to have to find ways to cooperate in  
135 pursuit of shared interests.

136 Too often, in both recent past and long ago, we have seen the consequences when  
137 diplomacy is left on the table. We've also seen the benefits of cooperation. In the last  
138 century, our nations fought alongside one another in the Second World War. Even  
139 during the tensions of the Cold War, when the world looked much different than it  
140 does today, the United States and Russia were able to maintain a strong dialogue.

141 But our relationship has never been worse than it is now. However, that changed as of  
142 about four hours ago. I really believe that. Nothing would be easier politically than to  
143 refuse to meet, to refuse to engage. But that would not accomplish anything. As  
144 President, I cannot make decisions on foreign policy in a futile effort to appease  
145 partisan critics or the media, or Democrats who want to do nothing but resist and  
146 obstruct.

147 Constructive dialogue between the United States and Russia affords the opportunity  
148 to open new pathways toward peace and stability in our world. I would rather take a  
149 political risk in pursuit of peace than to risk peace in pursuit of politics. As President, I  
150 will always put what is best for America and what is best for the American people.

151 During today's meeting, I addressed directly with President Putin the issue of Russian  
152 interference in our elections. I felt this was a message best delivered in person. We  
153 spent a great deal of time talking about it, and President Putin may very well want to  
154 address it, and very strongly — because he feels very strongly about it, and he has an  
155 interesting idea.

156 We also discussed one of the most critical challenges facing humanity: nuclear  
157 proliferation. I provided an update on my meeting last month with Chairman Kim on  
158 the denuclearization of North Korea. And after today, I am very sure that President  
159 Putin and Russia want very much to end that problem. They're going to work with us,  
160 and I appreciate that commitment.

161 The President and I also discussed the scourge of radical Islamic terrorism. Both  
162 Russia and the United States have suffered horrific terrorist attacks, and we have  
163 agreed to maintain open communication between our security agencies to protect  
164 our citizens from this global menace.

165 Last year, we told Russia about a planned attack in St. Petersburg, and they were able  
166 to stop it cold. They found them. They stopped them. There was no doubt about it. I  
167 appreciated President Putin's phone call afterwards to thank me.

168 I also emphasized the importance of placing pressure on Iran to halt its nuclear  
169 ambitions and to stop its campaign of violence throughout the area, throughout the  
170 Middle East.

171 As we discussed at length, the crisis in Syria is a complex one. Cooperation between  
172 our two countries has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives. I also  
173 made clear that the United States will not allow Iran to benefit from our successful  
174 campaign against ISIS. We have just about eradicated ISIS in the area.

175 We also agreed that representatives from our national security councils will meet to  
176 follow up on all of the issues we addressed today and to continue the progress we  
177 have started right here in Helsinki.

178 Today's meeting is only the beginning of a longer process. But we have taken the first  
179 steps toward a brighter future and one with a strong dialogue and a lot of  
180 thought. Our expectations are grounded in realism but our hopes are grounded in  
181 America's desire for friendship, cooperation, and peace. And I think I can speak on  
182 behalf of Russia when I say that also.

183 President Putin, I want to thank you again for joining me for these important  
184 discussions and for advancing open dialogue between Russia and the United  
185 States. Our meeting carries on a long tradition of diplomacy between Russia, the  
186 United States, for the greater good of all.

187 And this was a very constructive day. This was a very constructive few hours that we  
188 spent together. It's in the interest of both of our countries to continue our  
189 conversation, and we have agreed to do so.

190 I'm sure we'll be meeting again in the future often, and hopefully we will solve every  
191 one of the problems that we discussed today.

192 So, again, President Putin, thank you very much.

193 MODERATOR: (As interpreted.) Distinguished Presidents, now the journalists would  
194 have a chance to ask two questions, two sets of question each. First, the Russian  
195 journalist will ask the question. Please give your affiliation.

196 Q (As interpreted.) Good afternoon, my name is Alexei Meshkov, Interfax information  
197 agency. I have a question to President Trump. During your recent European tour, you  
198 mentioned that the implementation of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline makes Europe  
199 the hostage of Russia. And you suggested that you could free Europe from this by  
200 supplying American LNG. But this cold winter actually showed that the current model  
201 — current mechanism of the supply of fuel to Europe is quite viable. At the same time,  
202 as far as I know, U.S. had to buy even Russian gas for Boston.

203 I have a question. The implementation of your idea has a political tinge to it, or is this  
204 a practical one? Because there will be a gap formed in the supply and demand  
205 mechanism, and first it's the consuming countries who will fall into this gap.

206 And the second question: Before the meeting with President Putin, you called him an  
207 adversary, a rival, and yet you expressed hope that you would be able to bring this  
208 relationship to a new level. Did you manage to do this?

209 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Actually, I called him a competitor. And a good competitor he  
210 is. And I think the word "competitor" is a — it's a compliment. I think that we will be  
211 competing, when you talk about the pipeline. I'm not sure necessarily that it's in the  
212 best interest of Germany or not, but that was a decision that they made. We'll be  
213 competing — as you know, the United States is now, or soon will be — but I think it  
214 actually is right now — the largest in the oil and gas world.

215 So we're going to be selling LNG and we'll have to be competing with the  
216 pipeline. And I think we'll compete successfully, although there is a little advantage  
217 locationally. So I just wish them luck. I mean, I did. I discussed with Angela Merkel in

218 pretty strong tones. But I also know where they're all coming from. And they have a  
219 very close source. So we'll see how that all works out.

220 But we have lots of sources now, and the United States is much different than it was a  
221 number of years ago when we weren't able to extract what we can extract today. So  
222 today we're number one in the world at that. And I think we'll be out there competing  
223 very strongly.

224 Thank you very much.

225 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted.) If I may, I'd throw in some two cents. We talked  
226 to Mr. President, including this subject as well. We are aware of the stance of  
227 President Trump. And I think that we, as a major oil and gas power — and the United  
228 States, as a major oil and gas power as well — we could work together on regulation of  
229 international markets, because neither of us is actually interested in the plummeting  
230 of the prices.

231 And the consumers will suffer as well, and the consumers in the United States will  
232 suffer as well, and the shale gas production will suffer. Because beyond a certain price  
233 bracket, it's no longer profitable to produce gas, but nor we are interested in driving  
234 prices up because it will drain juices, life juices, from all other sectors of the economy,  
235 from machine building, et cetera. So we do have space for cooperation here, as the  
236 first thing.

237 Then, about the Nord Stream 2, Mr. President voiced his concerns about the  
238 possibility of disappearance of transit through Ukraine. And I reassured Mr. President  
239 that Russia stands ready to maintain this transit. Moreover, we stand ready to extend  
240 this transit contract that is about to expire next year, in case — if the dispute between  
241 the economic entities dispute will be settled in the Stockholm Arbitration Court.

242 SANDERS: (Inaudible) goes to Jeff Mason, from Reuters.

243 Q Thank you. Mr. President, you tweeted this morning that it's U.S. foolishness,  
244 stupidity, and the Mueller probe that is responsible for the decline in U.S. relations  
245 with Russia. Do you hold Russia at all accountable for anything in particular? And if  
246 so, what would you consider them — that they are responsible for?

247 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, I do. I hold both countries responsible. I think that the  
248 United States has been foolish. I think we've all been foolish. We should have had this



249 dialogue a long time ago — a long time, frankly, before I got to office. And I think we're  
250 all to blame. I think that the United States now has stepped forward, along with  
251 Russia. And we're getting together. And we have a chance to do some great things,  
252 whether it's nuclear proliferation, in terms of stopping — because we have to do  
253 it. Ultimately, that's probably the most important thing that we can be working on.

254 But I do feel that we have both made some mistakes. I think that the probe is a  
255 disaster for our country. I think it's kept us apart. It's kept us separated. There was  
256 no collusion at all. Everybody knows it. People are being brought out to the fore.

257 So far, that I know, virtually none of it related to the campaign. And they're going to  
258 have try really hard to find somebody that did relate to the campaign. That was a  
259 clean campaign. I beat Hillary Clinton easily. And frankly, we beat her — and I'm not  
260 even saying from the standpoint — we won that race. And it's a shame that there can  
261 even be a little bit of a cloud over it.

262 People know that. People understand it. But the main thing, and we discussed this  
263 also, is zero collusion. And it has had a negative impact upon the relationship of the  
264 two largest nuclear powers in the world. We have 90 percent of nuclear power  
265 between the two countries. It's ridiculous. It's ridiculous what's going on with the  
266 probe.

267 Q For President Putin, if I could follow up as well. Why should Americans and why  
268 should President Trump believe your statement that Russia did not intervene in the  
269 2016 election, given the evidence that U.S. intelligence agencies have provided? And  
270 will you consider extraditing the 12 Russian officials that were indicted last week by a  
271 U.S. grand jury?

272 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'm going to let the President answer the second part of that  
273 question. But, as you know, the whole concept of that came up perhaps a little bit  
274 before, but it came out as a reason why the Democrats lost an election — which,  
275 frankly, they should have been able to win, because the Electoral College is much  
276 more advantageous for Democrats, as you know, than it is to Republicans.

277 We won the Electoral College by a lot — 306 to 223, I believe. And that was a well-  
278 fought — that was a well-fought battle. We did a great job.

279 And, frankly, I'm going to let the President speak to the second part of your  
280 question. But just to say it one time again, and I say it all the time: There was no

281 collusion. I didn't know the President. There was nobody to collude with. There was  
282 no collusion with the campaign. And every time you hear all of these — you know, 12  
283 and 14 — it's stuff that has nothing to do — and frankly, they admit, these are not  
284 people involved in the campaign.

285 But to the average reader out there, they're saying, "Well, maybe that does." It  
286 doesn't. And even the people involved, some perhaps told mis-stories or, in one case,  
287 the FBI said there was no lie. There was no lie. Somebody else said there was.

288 We ran a brilliant campaign, and that's why I'm President. Thank you.

289 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted). As to who is to be believed and to who is not to  
290 be believed, you can trust no one, if you take this. Where did you get this idea that  
291 President Trump trusts me or I trust him? He defends the interests of the United  
292 States of America, and I do defend the interests of the Russian Federation.

293 We do have interests that are common. We are looking for points of contact. There  
294 are issues where our postures diverge, and we are looking for ways to reconcile our  
295 differences; how to make our effort more meaningful.

296 We should not proceed from the immediate political interests that guide certain  
297 political powers in our countries. We should be guided by facts. Can you name a  
298 single fact that would definitively prove the collusion? This is utter nonsense.

299 Just like the President recently mentioned — yes, the public at large in the United  
300 States had a certain perceived opinion of the candidates during the campaign, but  
301 there's nothing particularly extraordinary about it. That's the usual thing.

302 President Trump, when he was a candidate, he mentioned the need to restore the  
303 Russia-U.S. relationship, and it's clear that a certain part of American society felt  
304 sympathetic about it, and different people could express their sympathy in different  
305 ways. But isn't that natural? Isn't it natural to be sympathetic towards a person who  
306 is willing to restore the relationship with our country, who wants to work with us?

307 We heard the accusations about the Concord country [sic]. Well, as far as I know, this  
308 company hired American lawyers. And the accusations doesn't — doesn't have a  
309 fighting chance in the American courts. So there's no evidence when it comes to the  
310 actual facts. So we have to be guided by facts and not by rumors.

311 Now, let's get back to the issue of these 12 alleged intelligence officers of Russia. I  
312 don't know the full extent of the situation, but President Trump mentioned this issue,  
313 and I will look into it.

314 So far, I can say the following, the things that — off the top of my head: We have an  
315 acting — an existing agreement between the United States of America and the Russian  
316 Federation, an existing treaty that dates back to 1999, the Mutual Assistance on  
317 Criminal Cases. This treaty is in full effect. It works quite efficiently.

318 On average, we initiate about 100, 150 criminal cases upon request from foreign  
319 states. For instance, the last year, there was one extradition case, upon the request,  
320 sent by the United States. So this treaty has specific legal procedures.

321 We can offer that the appropriate commission headed by Special Attorney Mueller —  
322 he can use this treaty as a solid foundation, and send a formal, an official request to us  
323 so that we would interrogate — we would hold the questioning of these individuals  
324 who he believes are privy to some crimes. And our law enforcement are perfectly able  
325 to do this questioning and send the appropriate materials to the United States.

326 Moreover, we can meet you halfway; we can make another step. We can actually  
327 permit official representatives of the United States, including the members of this very  
328 commission headed by Mr. Mueller — we can let them into the country and they will  
329 be present at this questioning.

330 But in this case, there is another condition. This kind of effort should be a mutual  
331 one. Then we would expect that the Americans would reciprocate and they would  
332 question officials, including the officers of law enforcement and intelligence services  
333 of the United States whom we believe are — who have something to do with illegal  
334 actions on the territory of Russia, and we have to request the presence of our law  
335 enforcement.

336 For instance, we can bring up Mr. Browder in this particular case. Business associates  
337 of Mr. Browder have earned over \$1.5 billion in Russia. They never paid any taxes,  
338 neither in Russia nor in the United States, and yet the money escaped the  
339 country. They were transferred to the United States. They sent a huge amount of  
340 money — \$400 million — as a contribution to the campaign of Hillary Clinton. Well,  
341 that's their personal case. It might have been legal, the contribution itself, but the  
342 way the money was earned was illegal.

343 So we have a solid reason to believe that some intelligence officers accompanied and  
344 guided these transactions. So we have an interest of questioning them. That could be  
345 a first step, and we can also extend it. Options abound, and they all can be found in  
346 an appropriate legal framework.

347 Q And did you direct any of your officials to help him do that?

348 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted.) Yes, I did. Yes, I did. Because he talked about  
349 bringing the U.S.-Russia relationship back to normal.

350 I think there can be three questions from the Russian pool.

351 Russia Today, you have the floor.

352 Q (As interpreted.) (Speaks Russian.) Thank you so much. And good evening to  
353 everyone. My name is Ilya Petrenko, RT TV Channel.

354 (Speaks English.) In English, Mr. President, would you please go into the details of  
355 possibly any specific arrangements for the U.S. to work together with Russia in Syria, if  
356 any of these kind of arrangements were made today or discussed?

357 (As interpreted.) (Speaks Russian.) And my question to President Putin, in Russian:  
358 Since we brought up the issue of football several times, I ask — I use the football  
359 language. Mr. Pompeo mentioned that, when we talk about the Syrian cooperation,  
360 the ball is in the Syrian court. Mr. Putin, in the Russian court, is it true? And how  
361 would you use this fact — the having the ball?

362 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I guess I'll answer the first part of the question. We've  
363 worked with Israel long and hard for many years, many decades. I think we've never  
364 — never has anyone, any country been closer than we are. President Putin also is  
365 helping Israel. And we both spoke with Bibi Netanyahu, and they would like to do  
366 certain things with respect to Syria having to do with the safety of Israel. So in that  
367 respect, we absolutely would like to work in order to help Israel, and Israel will be  
368 working with us. So both countries would work jointly.

369 And I think that, when you look at all of the progress that's been made in certain  
370 sections with the eradication of ISIS, we're about 98 percent, 99 percent there — and  
371 other things that have taken place that we've done, and that, frankly, Russia has  
372 helped us with in certain respects. But I think that working with Israel is a great thing,

373 and creating safety for Israel is something that both President Putin and I would like  
374 to see very much.

375 One little thing I might add to that is the helping of people — helping of  
376 people. Because you have such horrible, if you see — and I've seen reports and I've  
377 seen pictures, I've seen just about everything. And if we can do something to help the  
378 people of Syria get back into some form of shelter and — on a humanitarian  
379 basis. And that's what the word was, really, a humanitarian basis. I think that both of  
380 us would be very interested in doing that, and we are. We will do that.

381 Thank you very much.

382 Q Excuse me, but, for now, no specific agreements? For instance, between the  
383 militaries?

384 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, our militaries do get along. In fact, our militaries, actually,  
385 have gotten along probably better than our political leaders for years. But our  
386 militaries do get along very well, and they do coordinate in Syria and other places.

387 Okay, thank you.

388 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted.) Yes, we did mention this. We mentioned the  
389 humanitarian track of this issue. Yesterday, I discussed this with French President, Mr.  
390 Macron. And we reached an agreement that, together with European countries,  
391 including France, we will step up this effort.

392 On our behalf, we will provide military cargo aircraft to deliver the humanitarian  
393 cargo. And today, I brought up this issue with President Trump. I think there is plenty  
394 of things to look into.

395 The crucial thing here is that a huge amount of refugees are in Turkey, in Lebanon, in  
396 Jordan — in the states that border — are adjacent to Syria. If we help them, the  
397 migratory pressure upon the European states will drop; it will be decreased many-  
398 fold. And I believe it's crucial from any point of view — from humanitarian point of  
399 view, from the point of view of helping people, helping the refugees.

400 And in general, I agree, I concur with President Trump: Our military cooperate quite  
401 successfully together. They do get along, and I hope they will be able to do so in

402 future. And we will be keep working in the Astana format — I mean Russia, Turkey,  
403 and Iran — which I informed President Trump about.

404 But we do stand ready to link these efforts to the so-called “small group” of states so  
405 that the process would be a broader one, it would be a multi-dimensional one, and so  
406 that we will be able to maximize our fighting chance to get the ultimate success in the  
407 issue of Syria.

408 And speaking about the having the ball in our court in Syria, President Trump has just  
409 mentioned that we’ve successfully concluded the World Football Cup. Speaking of the  
410 football, actually — Mr. President, I’ll give this ball to you, and now the ball is in your  
411 court. All the more that the United States will host the World Cup in 2026.

412 PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. We do host it. And we hope we do as good  
413 a job. That’s very nice. That will go to my son, Barron. We have no question. In fact,  
414 Melania, here you go. (Laughter.)

415 Okay.

416 SANDERS: The final question from the United States will go to Jonathan Lemire, from  
417 the AP.

418 Q Thank you. A question for each President. President Trump, you first. Just now,  
419 President Putin denied having anything to do with the election interference in  
420 2016. Every U.S. intelligence agency has concluded that Russia did. What — who —  
421 my first question for you, sir, is, who do you believe?

422 My second question is, would you now, with the whole world watching, tell President  
423 Putin — would you denounce what happened in 2016? And would you warn him to  
424 never do it again?

425 PRESIDENT TRUMP: So let me just say that we have two thoughts. You have groups  
426 that are wondering why the FBI never took the server. Why haven’t they taken the  
427 server? Why was the FBI told to leave the office of the Democratic National  
428 Committee? I’ve been wondering that. I’ve been asking that for months and months,  
429 and I’ve been tweeting it out and calling it out on social media. Where is the server? I  
430 want to know, where is the server? And what is the server saying?

431 With that being said, all I can do is ask the question. My people came to me — Dan  
432 Coats came to me and some others — they said they think it's Russia. I have President  
433 Putin; he just said it's not Russia.

434 I will say this: I don't see any reason why it would be, but I really do want to see the  
435 server. But I have — I have confidence in both parties. I really believe that this will  
436 probably go on for a while, but I don't think it can go on without finding out what  
437 happened to the server. What happened to the servers of the Pakistani gentleman  
438 that worked on the DNC? Where are those servers? They're missing. Where are  
439 they? What happened to Hillary Clinton's emails? Thirty-three thousand emails gone  
440 — just gone. I think, in Russia, they wouldn't be gone so easily. I think it's a disgrace  
441 that we can't get Hillary Clinton's 33,000 emails.

442 So I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President  
443 Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today. And what he did is an  
444 incredible offer; he offered to have the people working on the case come and work  
445 with their investigators with respect to the 12 people. I think that's an incredible offer.

446 Okay? Thank you.

447 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted.) I'd like to add something to this. After all, I was  
448 an intelligence officer myself, and I do know how dossiers are made up. Just a  
449 second. That's the first thing.

450 Now, the second thing: I believe that Russia is a democratic state, and I hope you're  
451 not denying this right to your own country. You're not denying that United States is a  
452 democracy. Do you believe the United States is a democracy? And if so, if it is a  
453 democratic state, then the final conclusion in this kind of dispute can only be delivered  
454 by a trial by the court, not by the executive — by the law enforcement.

455 For instance, the Concord company that was brought up is being accused — it's been  
456 accused of interference. But this company does not constitute the Russian State. It  
457 does not represent the Russian State. And I brought several examples before.

458 Well, you have a lot of individuals in the United States — take George Soros, for  
459 instance — with multibillion capitals, but it doesn't make him — his position, his  
460 posture — the posture of the United States? No, it does not. Well, it's the same  
461 case. There is the issue of trying a case in the court, and the final say is for the court to  
462 deliver.

463 We're now talking about the private — the individuals, and not about particular  
464 states. And as far as the most recent allegation is concerned about the Russian  
465 intelligence officers, we do have an intergovernmental treaty. Please, do send us the  
466 request. We will analyze it properly and we'll send a formal response.

467 And as I said, we can extend this cooperation but we should do it on a reciprocal basis,  
468 because we would await our Russian counterparts to provide us access to the persons  
469 of interest for us whom we believe can have something to do with intelligence  
470 services.

471 Let's discuss the specific issues, and not use the Russia and U.S. relationship as a  
472 loose change — the loose change for this internal political struggle.

473 Q My question for President — for President Putin. Thank you. Two questions for  
474 you, sir. Can you tell me what President Trump may have indicated to you about  
475 officially recognizing Crimea as part of Russia?

476 And then secondly, sir, does the Russian government have any compromising material  
477 on President Trump or his family?

478 PRESIDENT PUTIN: (As interpreted.) (Laughs.) President Trump and — well, the  
479 posture on President Trump on Crimea is well known, and he stands firmly by it. He  
480 continued to maintain that it was illegal to annex it. We — our viewpoint is  
481 different. We held a referendum in strict compliance with the U.N. Charter and the  
482 international legislation. For us, this issue — we (inaudible) to this issue.

483 And now to the compromising material. Yeah, I did heard these rumors that we  
484 allegedly collected compromising material on Mr. Trump when he was visiting  
485 Moscow.

486 Now, distinguished colleague, let me tell you this: When President Trump was at  
487 Moscow back then, I didn't even know that he was in Moscow. I treat President Trump  
488 with utmost respect. But back then, when he was a private individual, a businessman,  
489 nobody informed me that he was in Moscow.

490 Well, let's take St. Petersburg Economic Forum, for instance. There were over 500  
491 American businessmen — high-ranking, high-level ones. I don't even remember the  
492 last names of each and every one of them. Well, do you remember — do you think that



493 we try to collect compromising material on each and every single one of them? Well,  
494 it's difficult to imagine an utter nonsense of a bigger scale than this.

495 Well, please, just disregard these issues and don't think about this anymore again.

496 PRESIDENT TRUMP: It would have been out long ago. And if anybody watched Peter  
497 Strzok testify over the last couple of days — and I was in Brussels watching it — it was  
498 a disgrace to the FBI, it was a disgrace to our country, and, you would say, that was a  
499 total witch hunt.

500 Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

501 END

502