

REMARKS BY CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT PRESIDENT JESSICA MATHEWS AT THE CARNEGIE MOSCOW CENTER TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE MARRIOTT ROYAL AURORA HOTEL, 9:30, APRIL 22, 2004

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Mathews: Good morning. I'm Jessica Mathews, President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

It's a great pleasure for me on behalf of the Endowment to welcome you today to this conference on Russia's future. We are celebrating this week the 10th anniversary of the Carnegie Moscow Center, and we are honored to have with us the man whose vision for the Moscow Center was - former ambassador Morton Abramowitz who really is responsible for this great institution.

The Moscow Center is unique. It's a unique Russian-American collaboration. It's unique, too, for being by far the largest and longest-lived and highest-profile foreign investment of its kind in Russia, and one that, we believe, has had the greatest impact on Russian intellectual life and on policy thinking.

The Center's special strengths, I think, are, first of all, its international character. Over the past decade it's been principally Russian and American, but increasingly it is expanding to the West, to Europe, to the East, to Asia, and to the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia. And we hope that that will be very much the trend for the future.

Third, it's special because of its mix of disciplines and backgrounds. Economists, political scientists, journalists, former government officials - all bring their very special insights to the Center's work.

And most of all, it's special because of the quality of the staff that we have been able to attract. They are our assets, both our scholars here in Moscow and their colleagues in Washington. And we are fully aware that their strengths are beyond price.

The best evidence of that is the volume that you received this morning, that is released today, Russia's Next Decade. Every author in that collection of essays - an excellent collection - is a present or past member of the Carnegie staff. And that's an extraordinary collection of wisdom.

Neither that volume, nor today's event, nor the other publications that we are doing around our 10th anniversary would have been possible without the support of our anniversary partners: Interros, United Financial Group, Citigroup, the Center for Post-Industrial Studies, the embassies of Norway and Sweden here in Moscow, the Dynasty Foundation and Baring-Vostok Partners. We are deeply grateful to all of them.

Through all the years of the Moscow Center's existence, through good times and bad times in US-Russian relations , one of the Center's most important strengths was its ability to work with and call for help with the US Embassy here in Moscow. That relationship has never been as strong as it has been under the leadership of the present incumbent, Ambassador Alexander Vershbow. He's deeply committed to the positive role that the independent sector can play, along with business, in helping government understand and solve the problems that it has to address. In particular, he understands and value the role that think tanks can play. And he has been a great to the Center and to civil society here in Moscow, more broadly. We are privileged and honored to have him with us this morning to open this conference. We could not have found a better individual. Sandy, we're very glad to have you.

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