

Medvedev: 'Talk to Russia'

The United States, instead of “trying to be clever,” must begin discussions with Russia on how to overcome the consequences of the crisis on the U.S. stock market, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev said on Sept. 19. He said that the problems caused by the U.S. crisis had spread to all market economies, and would not have had such serious repercussions, if an agreement had been reached during the G-8 summit in Japan in July.

On Sept. 18, Medvedev had said at a reception for new ambassadors to Russia, that Russia and the U.S.

can maintain a constructive dialogue despite their differences: “Despite a number of significant disagreements on certain international issues, we are convinced that we have what it takes to forge a constructive dialogue on a long-term basis,” Medvedev said. He called ties with the U.S. one of Russia’s foreign policy priorities, Novosti reported.

“The history of Russian-U.S. relations has seen plenty of imbroglios, but invariably common sense and pragmatism have prevailed.” There are good foundations for relations, based on political dialogue, trade and economic relations, and investment activity. “It would be politically short-sighted to fritter away these achievements and get back to the old stereotypes,” he said.