

Russia's Offers of Cooperation

Dec. 19—Contrary to the wave of anti-Putin propaganda spewing from the major international media outlets these days, the Russian government under Vladimir Putin as Prime Minister, and previously as President, has a history of boldly reaching out to the United States for cooperation in both the strategic and economic realms. We identify several of the major proposals here, all of which were de facto rejected by lack of a positive response:

Bering Strait Tunnel: In 2007 and 2010, the Russian Academy of Sciences and government agencies sponsored conferences promoting the construction of a tunnel across the Bering Strait, linking the two continents, in cooperation with the United States and other nations.

Missile Defense: Starting in July 2007, then-President Putin's discussions at Kennebunkport, Maine with President George W. Bush, Russia has

repeatedly proposed joint missile defense projects between NATO and Russia.

Siberian Development: In September 2009, Russian Deputy Presidential Representative Alexander Levintal invited the U.S. government and American business to be part of Russia's economic development of the Far East in high-tech industry and infrastructure, not only raw materials.

Global Disaster Monitoring: Early in 2011, the Russian government proposed the International Global Natural and Industrial Emergency Aerospace Monitoring System (IGMASS), to forecast earthquakes, severe weather, and other natural disasters.

Strategic Defense of Earth: In October 2011, Russian Ambassador to NATO Dmitri Rogozin proposed to the U.S. a program called Strategic Defense of Earth, "A single integrated system which would be targeted against possible threats to Earth coming from space, including asteroids, comet fragments, and other alien bodies, a system which should be capable of both monitoring space and destroying any dangerous objects as they approach our planet."