

# START Debate Begins

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**The  Moscow Times**

WASHINGTON — The administration of U.S. President Barack Obama pressed senators Thursday to support the New START pact with Russia.

Senate Democrats brought the New START treaty up for debate Wednesday. In a new sign of momentum, Democrats easily prevailed, 66-32, to move forward on the pact, winning the support of nine Republicans.

On Thursday, administration officials, including the treaty's chief negotiator, Rose Gottemoeller, were sent to congressional offices to respond rapidly to criticism of the treaty and to win over more Republicans.

*(AP)*