

# U.S. Backs Russia's Mediation

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WASHINGTON — U.S. President Barack Obama has told President Dmitry Medvedev that the United States is prepared to support Russian-led negotiations in Libya, the White House said.

But Obama also said the United States would only back the negotiations if they led to a democratic transition and longtime Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi stepped aside.

Medvedev has joined the West in urging Gadhafi to step down, and a Kremlin envoy has traveled to Libya.

Obama and Medvedev spoke Monday.

The two leaders also discussed Sudan, Afghanistan and Russia's pending accession to the World Trade Organization.

*(AP)*

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