

Medvedev: Obama Calling Russia No. 2 Foe Is 'Mental Aberration'

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Russia's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (L) speaks with CNBC journalist Geoff Cutmore during an interview in Moscow, Oct. 14, 2014.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has suggested that U.S. President Barack Obama is suffering from a "mental aberration" after the American leader said Russia posed a greater threat to his country than the Islamic State.

"It's sad to hear President Obama say in an address at the UN that the threats and challenges facing humanity are in this particular order: the Ebola virus, the Russian Federation and only then the Islamic State," Medvedev said in an interview published Wednesday by U.S. television channel CNBC.

"I don't want to dignify it with a response. It's sad, it's like some kind of mental aberration," he added.

The militant Islamic State has become notorious this year after executing several Western journalists and aid workers. The fundamentalist group has claimed large swathes of territory

in Iraq and Syria and has threatened both the U.S. and Russia in public speeches.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday met in Paris for talks and agreed to share intelligence on Islamic State militants.

"We both recognize the need to destroy and ultimately defeat IS, to degrade their efforts and ultimately to defeat them," Kerry was quoted as saying by the Reuters news agency.

Medvedev, speaking to CNBC, also addressed comments made by Australian counterpart Tony Abbott, in which he said he would "shirtfront" Putin at an upcoming G20 leaders summit over the "murder" of 38 Australians aboard a Malaysian airliner downed over eastern Ukraine this summer. The West has accused Russia of backing the separatists believed to have shot down the plane.

"If [Abbott] likes to speak using sports terms — be my guest," Medvedev said. "[But] any serious politician should be very careful what he says."

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