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Putin Meets With U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Talk Syria

By The Moscow Times

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President Vladimir Putin met with visiting U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Moscow on Tuesday, the Interfax news agency reported.

“Both of us are looking for ways to resolve the most complicated crises. I know ... the American side had prepared its vision on how to deal with a variety of problems including the Syrian crisis,” Putin said at the meeting, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

Putin also said he will be happy to discuss all the White House's proposals, according to the state news agency TASS.

Kerry stressed that Russia and the United States can do much toward resolving the Syrian crisis, and praised the Vienna talks as a good starting point.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kerry met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the Syrian conflict and the possibility of joining forces in counter-terrorism efforts. Kerry and

Lavrov also talked about the Ukrainian crisis and the bilateral relation between Russia and the United States, RIA Novosti reported.

Kerry also had a meeting with Ludmila Alexeyeva, head of the human rights organization Moscow Helsinki Group, and took a walk along Arbat street, Radio Svoboda reported Tuesday.

Kerry's visit is his second to Russia this year, but his first since the start of Moscow's military campaign in Syria in September. The Secretary of State had met with Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in May.

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