

Sent: Sun, 19 Jun 2016 21:09:58 -0400
From: Sara Biden <sbiden@lionhallgp.com>
To: Anne Marie Person [REDACTED] FOIA-6
Cc: hurricane5155@gmail.com, Jim Biden <jbiden@lionhallgp.com>
Subject: Re: Ireland Trip

Ann Marie,
Cal and Jim and I plan to stay over Monday night at NAVOBs and travel in am with big brother.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 19, 2016, at 8:37 PM, Anne Marie Person [REDACTED] FOIA-6 wrote:

Hi everyone!

Just wanted to make sure you received my email below. Our team on the ground is emphasizing that everyone bring rain gear and lots of layers when packing.

Please let me know if you plan to arrive at Andrews independently on Tuesday morning as I need to make sure your car is cleared on base.

Thanks!
Anne Marie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anne Marie Person [REDACTED] FOIA-6
Subject: Ireland Trip
Date: June 18, 2016 at 7:59:27 AM EDT
To: abiden@dcjustice.org, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, Hunter <hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>, Kathleen Biden [REDACTED] Finnegan Biden [REDACTED] FOIA-6, hurricane5155@gmail.com, jbiden@lionhallgp.com, Sara Biden <sbiden@lionhallgp.com>

Hi Bidens,

As you prepare for your upcoming to trip to Ireland I wanted to send along some information that should be helpful for packing, planning, etc. We will spend most of our time in Dublin and County Mayo, Ireland. Attached are a few brochures for activity options & associated costs in both cities. Below is a very brief overview of the schedule, forecasted weather, and other information. I will be traveling as well

so please let me know if you have any questions now and along the way.

PASSPORTS!!

Please remember to bring your passport on this trip (**Note:** We have passports for Ashley, Finnegan, Maisy, Natalie and Little Hunter so you guys are all set. Everyone else needs to bring them with you.)

TUESDAY DEPARTURE TIME:

They have asked that everyone arrive to Andrews at **6:30am** for a Wheels Up around 7:50am. If you are arriving independently to Andrews please send me the following information so I can make sure your car is cleared on base:

- Driver's License Number
- Make & Model
- License Plate Number
- Year
- Color

Brief Overview of the Schedule: Of course you have the option to attend/not attend anything you would like, but I have bolded a few events that it would be very helpful to know ahead of time if you plan to attend so they can make proper arrangements for seating.

Tuesday, June 21

- Travel to Dublin, Ireland. (Note: Arrival will be open to the press)
- VP evening Bilateral Meeting with Taoiseach

FOIA-6

Wednesday, June 22

- Biden genealogy presentation in the morning and travel to County Mayo (30 min flight)
- Tour County Mayo with Ireland's Taoiseach (attire for the day will be business, most of the day will be open to press)
- Dinner and Music with Taoiseach and family in County Mayo

FOIA-6

Thursday, June 23

- VP golf with Taoiseach all morning. This is a great opportunity for activities/shopping/exploring. Please refer to the brochures attached for County Mayo & Mount Falcon activities.
- Afternoon return to Dublin (30 min flight)

FOIA-6

FOIA-6

Friday, June 24

- VP will receive Honorary Doctorate of Law Degree and Gold Medal of the Philosophical Society and Deliver Brief Remarks at Trinity College. **Please let me know if you would like to attend to ensure proper seating arrangements.**
- Tour Trinity College's Historic Library (those who do not attend remarks can join for this tour)
- Early Evening Remarks at Dublin Castle
- Evening Remarks at American Ireland Fund 40th Anniversary Gala (**THIS EVENT IS BLACK TIE**). **Please let me know if you would like to attend to ensure proper seating arrangements.**

FOIA-6

Saturday, June 25

- Tour County Louth (attire for the day will be business casual, most of the day will be open to press)

FOIA-6

Sunday, June 26

- Taoiseach hosting lunch at his residence. This event will be similar to the St. Patrick's Day Breakfast at Naval Observatory with local government officials. **Please let me know if you would like to attend to ensure proper seating arrangements.**
- Wheels Up mid-afternoon to arrive back Sunday evening.

Attire

- * Business attire for all meetings.
- * The day in County Mayo business & County Louth will be business casual (please note, most of the day will be open to the media)
- * If you are planning on attending the American Ireland Fund Gala Dinner, the attire is **Black Tie**.
- * Our team on the ground has strongly recommended that **everyone pack rain boots and rain gear** as the weather changes fast and it has rained part of every day.

Weather (please note that these forecasts are as of Thursday, June 16 and are subject to change)

- * **Tuesday, June 21:** Dublin, Ireland: High of 67/ Low of 54, Mostly Cloudy, 20% chance of rain
- * **Wednesday, June 22:** County Mayo, Ireland: High of 64/ Low of 54, Cloudy, 20% chance of rain

- * **Thursday, June 23:** County Mayo, Ireland: High of 65/ Low of 53, showers, 40% chance of rain
- * **Friday, June 24:** Dublin, Ireland: High of 68/ Low of 53, Partly Cloudy, 20% chance of rain
- * **Saturday, June 25:** Dublin, Ireland: High of 68/ Low of 53, Partly Cloudy, 20% chance of rain
- * **Sunday, June 26:** Dublin, Ireland High of 68/ Low of 53, Partly Cloudy, 20% chance of rain

Cash

- * Ireland uses the Euro; 1 EUR = 1.12 USD
- * Currency exchange will be available at the hotel in Dublin

I hope this helps! Enjoy the weekend.

Anne Marie

<Activities in Dublin.docx>

<Activities - Mayo.docx>

<Activities - Mount Falcon.docx>

<Mount Falcon Spa Brochure.pdf>

Sara Biden

20 Jun 2016 01:09:58

To: "Anne Marie Person" [personal information]

Cc: hurricane5155@gmail.com, Jim Biden

Bcc:

Re: Ireland Trip

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Wed Sep 18 15:02:52 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

Redaction of personal email addresses and personal scheduling information

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Tue, 29 Sep 2009 11:34:20 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Valerie Biden Owens <valerie@jswco.com>, Missy Owens <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, casey.owens@do.treas.gov, "Smith, Michelle" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">
Cc: "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Smith, Michele" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Missy Owens <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, casey.owens@do.treas.gov, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, Valerie Biden Owens <valerie@jswco.com>
Subject: RE: Wednesday

Tomorrow's schedule is still a moving target. I don't know yet what the morning will come to look like but please be prepared for a possible departure prior to 11:10 am. The reason for this change is that the President has called a meeting from 3:00 – 6:00 pm tomorrow afternoon that the VP must get back to the White House to participate in. This will require the VP to speak at the top of the program (as close to 1:00 pm as possible), and then depart immediately upon the conclusion of his remarks. Because he is departing the homecoming event early, he wants to arrive earlier.

I will provide additional updates as the schedule comes together. In the meantime, please let me know if this changes your plans and as always, don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Michele

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 11:07 AM
To: Smith, Michele; 'Hunter Biden'; 'Kathleen Biden'; 'Valerie Biden Owens'; 'Missy Owens'; 'Casey.Owens@do.treas.gov'
Cc: Orloff, Nancy; 'Eric Schwerin'
Subject: RE: Wednesday

Departure from the White House is now at 11:10 am. Stay tuned for additional updates.

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Hunter Biden; Kathleen Biden; Valerie Biden Owens; Missy Owens; Casey.Owens@do.treas.gov
Cc: Orloff, Nancy; Eric Schwerin
Subject: Wednesday
Importance: High

Good morning. You have been manifested to travel with the VP from the White House to Dover on Wednesday. Tentative departure time from the White House to Andrews is 11:30 am and tentative return time to the White House is 4:00 pm.

Please let us know if you need parking at the White House.

In the meantime, we will send you updates as the schedule solidifies.

Smith, Michele

29 Sep 2009 15:34:20

To: Smith, Michele, Hunter Biden, Kathleen Biden, Valerie Biden Owens, Missy Owens, casey.owens@do.treas.gov", "Smith, Michelle

Cc: Orloff, Nancy, Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Smith, Michele, >", "Orloff, Nancy, >", "Missy Owens, casey.owens@do.treas.gov", "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin, Valerie Biden Owens

RE: Wednesday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 15:58:05 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Flynn, John S. EOP/OVP

15 Jun 2016 16:43:05

To: Jimmy Biden (jbiden@lionhallgp.com), (jbiden@lionhallgp.com), "Valerie Biden Owens (hurricane5155@gmail.com)

Cc:

Bcc:

Updated Ireland Schedule

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Wed Sep 18 14:47:59 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P5,P6

Notes:

P6/(b)(6) - personal scheduling information and personal cell phone number

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Tue, 24 May 2016 16:41:01 -0400
From: "Chung, Kathy S. EOP/OVP" <kathy_s_chung@ovp.eop.gov>
To: halliebiden@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com, [FOIA-6]
abiden@dcjustice.org, Howard Krein <howard@startuphealth.com>, hurricane5155@gmail.com,
[FOIA-6] jbiden@lionhallgp.com, sbiden@lionhallgp.com.
Ron Olivere [FOIA-6] Liz Secundy [FOIA-6] Bonny [FOIA-6]
Cc: "Muldoon, Anne Marie" <anne_m_person@ovp.eop.gov>, "Bernal, Anthony"
<anthony_r_bernal@ovp.eop.gov>, "Flynn, John" <john_s_flynn@ovp.eop.gov>, "Rosenzweig, Ethan"
<erosenz@emory.edu>, "Person, Anne" <"/o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group
/cn=recipients/cn=person, anne.m.aae">, "Bernal, Anthony R." <"/o=eop/ou=exchange administrative
group /cn=recipients/cn=anthonyr.bernal72748266">, "Flynn, John" <"/o=eop/ou=exchange administrative
group /cn=recipients/cn=flynn, john.s.336">
Subject: Instructions for May 30 Ceremony
[Biden Dedication Family, VIP Parking.pptx](#)

I hope everyone is having a SUNNY afternoon. See below instructions for the May 30, dedication. The below instruction is for people who are not traveling with the VP in the motorcade. You are all seated in the Family/VIP seating and can park in the VIP area. Please share this with others who I may have missed in this email. They will have list of family members/VIPs, if you have not sent me their names, please do so. I can make sure they are on the list. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.Kathy

DIRECTIONS TO HEADQUARTERS, DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD 250 Airport Road, New Castle, DE 19720-1502

From Northbound DE-1

Take exit 162 for DE-273 toward Newark/New Castle.
Turn right onto DE-273; travel 0.3 mi.
Turn left onto DE-37 N (Airport Road), travel 1.8 mi.
Turn right into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

From Southbound US-13

Turn onto DE-141 N/US-202 N via the ramp to Newport; travel 1 mi.
Turn left onto DE-37 S (Commons Blvd.); travel 1.4 mi.
Turn left into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

From Northbound I-95

Take exit 3A to merge onto DE-273 E toward Dover; travel 2.6 mi.
Turn left onto DE-37 N (Airport Road); travel 1.8 mi.
Turn right into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

From Southbound I-95

Take exit 5A to merge onto DE-141 S/US-202 S toward US-13/New Castle; travel 0.2

mi.

Turn right onto DE-37 S (Commons Blvd.); travel 1.4 mi.

Turn left into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

- The only entrance to the facility will be the auxiliary (north) gate.
- The parking area for the family and VIPS (Governor, Senators, and Congressman only) is on the north side of the building straight back from the gate. There will be military personnel directing all traffic, which is very limited inside the gate.
- Family members are all invited to the green room prior to the event. Please ask military personnel to direct you.

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH DISCOVERY

N

FOIA-7(E)

Parcel Borders Airport Road

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FOIA-7(E)

Chung, Kathy S. EOP/OVP

24 May 2016 20:41:01

To: halliebiden@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com, [personal email address], abiden@dcjustice.org, Howard Krein
Cc: Muldoon, Anne Marie, Bernal, Anthony, Flynn, John, Rosenzweig, Ethan, Person, Anne, >", "Bernal, Anthony R., >", "Flynn, John
Bcc:

Instructions for May 30 Ceremony

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Sep 17 16:43:12 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6,b(7e)

Notes:

redaction of personal email addresses and Secret Service information

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Mon, 28 Sep 2009 11:07:15 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Valerie Biden Owens <valerie@jswco.com>, Missy Owens <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, casey.owens@do.treas.gov, "Smith, Michelle" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">
Cc: "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, "Smith, Michele" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">, Missy Owens <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, casey.owens@do.treas.gov, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, Valerie Biden Owens <valerie@jswco.com>
Subject: RE: Wednesday

Departure from the White House is now at 11:10 am. Stay tuned for additional updates.

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2009 10:17 AM
To: Hunter Biden; Kathleen Biden; Valerie Biden Owens; Missy Owens; Casey.Owens@do.treas.gov
Cc: Orloff, Nancy; Eric Schwerin
Subject: Wednesday
Importance: High

Good morning. You have been manifested to travel with the VP from the White House to Dover on Wednesday. Tentative departure time from the White House to Andrews is 11:30 am and tentative return time to the White House is 4:00 pm.

Please let us know if you need parking at the White House.

In the meantime, we will send you updates as the schedule solidifies.

Smith, Michele

28 Sep 2009 15:07:15

To: Smith, Michele, Hunter Biden, Kathleen Biden, Valerie Biden Owens, Missy Owens, casey.owens@do.treas.gov", "Smith, Michelle

Cc: Orloff, Nancy, Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Orloff, Nancy, >", "Smith, Michele, >", "Missy Owens, casey.owens@do.treas.gov", "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin, Valerie Biden Owens

RE: Wednesday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 15:54:59 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Smith, Michele

02 Jun 2010 21:28:19

To: hbiden@senecaga.com

Cc: Anne Marie Person, Eric Schwerin

Bcc: Anne Marie Person, Eric Schwerin

Foreign Trip

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Dec 30 15:52:27 EST 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

P5

Notes:

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

RECOVERED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2009 14:19:23 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, [REDACTED] FOIA-6, "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, "Smith, Michelle" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">
Cc: Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Smith, Michele" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, "Ashley Biden" <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>
Subject: UPDATES - Plans for Friday and Saturday

Friday schedule stays as is.

Saturday funeral schedule remains as is. The VP will now attend the burial at Arlington Cemetery at 5:30 pm on Saturday, and not attend the Jamboree.

He will depart out of DC for the Little League World Series on Sunday.

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:10 AM
To: 'Hallie Biden'; 'Ashley Biden' [REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]; 'Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)'; 'Hunter Biden'; 'Kathleen Biden'
Cc: 'Eric Schwerin'; Orloff, Nancy
Subject: Plans for Friday and Saturday
Importance: High

The following is a rough sketch of the plans for travel to Boston. I will send you updates as the plans firm up today. In the meantime, please let me know what you are thinking about in terms of your plans.

FRIDAY

4:45 pm Wheels up NAVOBS en route Andrews
5:10 pm Wheels up Andrews
6:25 pm Wheels down, Logan Airport
7:00 – 10:00 pm "Celebration of Life"
10:10 pm Depart en route Hotel

SATURDAY

9:45 am Depart Hotel
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Funeral Service
12:10 pm Depart en route Logan Airport
12:50 pm Wheels Up
1:50 pm Wheels Down, New Castle Co. Airport – **NOTE: this plane will continue on to Washington, DC with a wheels up at approximately 3:00 pm, wheels down at Andrews at 3:40 pm. VP will take a different plane on to Sussex.**
2:10 pm – 3:40 pm Personal time in Wilmington
3:50 pm Arrive NCCo Airport

4:00 pm Wheels up

4:25 pm Wheels Down Sussex Co Airport

5:00 – 6:45 pm Attend Sussex Jamboree

7:30 pm Wheels up Sussex Airport

8:10 pm Wheels down Andrews

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Smith, Michele

27 Aug 2009 18:19:23

To: Smith, Michele, Hallie Biden, [P6/b(6)]", "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), Hunter Biden, (DSCYF), "Kathleen Biden, Smith, Michelle
Cc: Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy, Orloff, Nancy
Bcc: Smith, Michele, >", "Orloff, Nancy, >", "Hallie Biden, Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), (DSCYF), "Ashley Biden ([P6/b(6)]),
([P6/b(6)]), "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin
UPDATES - Plans for Friday and Saturday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 15:44:17 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Mon, 28 Sep 2009 10:16:57 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Valerie Biden Owens <valerie@jswco.com>, Missy Owens <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, casey.owens@do.treas.gov
Cc: "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Missy Owens <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, casey.owens@do.treas.gov, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, Valerie Biden Owens <valerie@jswco.com>
Subject: Wednesday

Good morning. You have been manifested to travel with the VP from the White House to Dover on Wednesday. Tentative departure time from the White House to Andrews is 11:30 am and tentative return time to the White House is 4:00 pm.

Please let us know if you need parking at the White House.

In the meantime, we will send you updates as the schedule solidifies.

OBTAINED BY THE FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Smith, Michele

28 Sep 2009 14:16:57

To: Hunter Biden, Kathleen Biden, Valerie Biden Owens, Missy Owens

Cc: Orloff, Nancy, Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Orloff, Nancy, >, "Missy Owens, casey.owens@do.treas.gov", "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin, Valerie Biden Owens

Wednesday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 15:52:22 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Tue, 24 May 2016 16:41:01 -0400
From: "Chung, Kathy S. EOP/OVP" <kathy_s_chung@ovp.eop.gov>
To: halliebiden@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com, [FOIA-6],
abiden@dcjustice.org, Howard Krein <howard@startuphealth.com>, hurricane5155@gmail.com,
[FOIA-6], jbiden@lionhallgp.com, sbiden@lionhallgp.com,
Ron Olivere [FOIA-6], Liz Secundy [FOIA-6], Bonny [FOIA-6]
Cc: "Muldoon, Anne Marie" <anne_m_person@ovp.eop.gov>, "Bernal, Anthony"
<anthony_r_bernal@ovp.eop.gov>, "Flynn, John" <john_s_flynn@ovp.eop.gov>, "Rosenzweig, Ethan"
<erosenz@emory.edu>, "Person, Anne" <"/o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group
/cn=recipients/cn=person, anne.m.aae">, "Bernal, Anthony R." <"/o=eop/ou=exchange administrative
group /cn=recipients/cn=anthonyr.bernal72748266">, "Flynn, John" <"/o=eop/ou=exchange administrative
group /cn=recipients/cn=flynn, john.s.336">
Subject: Instructions for May 30 Ceremony
[Biden Dedication Family, VIP Parking.pptx](#)

I hope everyone is having a SUNNY afternoon. See below instructions for the May 30, dedication. The below instruction is for people who are not traveling with the VP in the motorcade. You are all seated in the Family/VIP seating and can park in the VIP area. Please share this with others who I may have missed in this email. They will have list of family members/VIPs, if you have not sent me their names, please do so. I can make sure they are on the list. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you. Kathy

DIRECTIONS TO HEADQUARTERS, DELAWARE NATIONAL GUARD

250 Airport Road, New Castle, DE 19720-1502

From Northbound DE-1

Take exit 162 for DE-273 toward Newark/New Castle.

Turn right onto DE-273; travel 0.3 mi.

Turn left onto DE-37 N (Airport Road), travel 1.8 mi.

Turn right into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

From Southbound US-13

Turn onto DE-141 N/US-202 N via the ramp to Newport; travel 1 mi.

Turn left onto DE-37 S (Commons Blvd.); travel 1.4 mi.

Turn left into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

From Northbound I-95

Take exit 3A to merge onto DE-273 E toward Dover; travel 2.6 mi.

Turn left onto DE-37 N (Airport Road); travel 1.8 mi.

Turn right into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

From Southbound I-95

Take exit 5A to merge onto DE-141 S/US-202 S toward US-13/New Castle; travel 0.2 mi.

Turn right onto DE-37 S (Commons Blvd.); travel 1.4 mi.

Turn left into the National Guard/Reserve Center, New Castle.

* The only entrance to the facility will be the auxiliary (north) gate.

* The parking area for the family and VIPS (Governor, Senators, and Congressman only) is on the north side of the building straight back from the gate.

There will be military personnel directing all traffic, which is very limited inside the gate.

* Family members are all invited to the green room prior to the event. Please ask military personnel to direct you.

OBTAINED BY AMERICAN PEOPLE THROUGH LEGAL PROMOTION

N

1

X6

FOIA-7(E)



Parcel Borders Airport Road

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

FOIA-7(E)

Chung, Kathy S. EOP/OVP

24 May 2016 20:41:01

To: halliebiden@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com, [personal email address], abiden@dcjustice.org, Howard Krein
Cc: Muldoon, Anne Marie, Bernal, Anthony, Flynn, John, Rosenzweig, Ethan, Person, Anne, >", "Bernal, Anthony R., >", "Flynn, John
Bcc:

Instructions for May 30 Ceremony

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Sep 17 16:39:20 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6,b(7e)

Notes:

redaction of personal email addresses and Secret Service information

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

OBAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Orloff, Nancy

04 Mar 2009 18:39:12

To: hbiden@senecaga.com

Cc: Eric Schwerin

Bcc: Hunter Biden (hbiden@senecaga.com), (hbiden@senecaga.com), "Eric Schwerin

DRAFT

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 10:14:26 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(7e),P5,b(6)

Notes:

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

OBAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Thu, 15 Oct 2009 16:21:19 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>
Cc: Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <FOIA-6>, "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, "Orloff, Nancy" </o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Orloff, Nancy" </o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Kathleen Biden <FOIA-6>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>
Subject: Foreign Travel

Hunter – you and Finnegan are 100 % confirmed to be manifested for next week's travel. The current schedule is 7:30 am wheels up from NAVOBS on Tuesday and 11:30 pm wheels down at NAVOBS on Friday.

The itinerary includes:

Warsaw, Poland (Average hi temp is 54 and low is 40)
Bucharest, Romania (Average hi temp is 64 and low is 42)
Prague, Czech Republic (Average hi temp is 54 and low is 39)

No shots are required or recommended for this trip.

Nancy and I will pass along additional information as it becomes available.

Michele

Smith, Michele

15 Oct 2009 20:21:19

To: Hunter Biden

Cc: Eric Schwerin, Kathleen Biden, Orloff, Nancy, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Orloff, Nancy, >", "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin

Foreign Travel

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Sep 17 08:02:04 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

RECOVERED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2009 09:17:18 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, [REDACTED] "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden [REDACTED], "Smith, Michelle" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">
Cc: Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Smith, Michele" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, "Ashley Biden [REDACTED]", Kathleen Biden [REDACTED], Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>
Subject: RE: Plans for Friday and Saturday

One additional note – VP is attending the Little League World Series in Williamsport on Sunday, departing from DC on Sunday around 1:00 pm and returning to DC on Sunday evening around 7:45 pm Sunday evening. Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you are planning to join him for this.

Thanks, Michele

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:10 AM
To: 'Hallie Biden'; 'Ashley Biden [REDACTED]'; 'Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)'; 'Hunter Biden'; 'Kathleen Biden'
Cc: 'Eric Schwerin'; Orloff, Nancy
Subject: Plans for Friday and Saturday
Importance: High

The following is a rough sketch of the plans for travel to Boston. I will send you updates as the plans firm up today. In the meantime, please let me know what you are thinking about in terms of your plans.

FRIDAY

4:45 pm Wheels up NAVOBS en route Andrews
5:10 pm Wheels up Andrews
6:25 pm Wheels down, Logan Airport
7:00 – 10:00 pm "Celebration of Life"
10:10 pm Depart en route Hotel

SATURDAY

9:45 am Depart Hotel
10:00 am – 12:00 pm Funeral Service
12:10 pm Depart en route Logan Airport
12:50 pm Wheels Up
1:50 pm Wheels Down, New Castle Co. Airport – **NOTE: this plane will continue on to Washington, DC with a wheels up at approximately 3:00 pm, wheels down at Andrews at 3:40 pm. VP will take a different plane on to Sussex.**
2:10 pm – 3:40 pm Personal time in Wilmington
3:50 pm Arrive NCCo Airport

4:00 pm Wheels up

4:25 pm Wheels Down Sussex Co Airport

5:00 – 6:45 pm Attend Sussex Jamboree

7:30 pm Wheels up Sussex Airport

8:10 pm Wheels down Andrews

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Smith, Michele

27 Aug 2009 13:17:18

To: Smith, Michele, Hallie Biden, [P6/b(6)]", "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), Hunter Biden, (DSCYF), "Kathleen Biden, Smith, Michelle

Cc: Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Smith, Michele, >", "Orloff, Nancy, >", "Hallie Biden, Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), (DSCYF), "Ashley Biden ([P6/b(6)]), ([P6/b(6)]), "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin

RE: Plans for Friday and Saturday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 14:35:50 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2009 09:09:59 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, [REDACTED] "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, "Ashley Biden" <[REDACTED]>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED]>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>
Subject: Plans for Friday and Saturday

The following is a rough sketch of the plans for travel to Boston. I will send you updates as the plans firm up today. In the meantime, please let me know what you are thinking about in terms of your plans.

FRIDAY

4:45 pm Wheels up NAVOBS en route Andrews
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10:10 pm Depart en route Hotel

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12:50 pm Wheels Up
1:50 pm Wheels Down, New Castle Co. Airport – **NOTE: this plane will continue on to Washington, DC with a wheels up at approximately 3:00 pm, wheels down at Andrews at 3:40 pm. VP will take a different plane on to Sussex.**
2:10 pm – 3:40 pm Personal time in Wilmington
3:50 pm Arrive NCCo Airport
4:00 pm Wheels up
4:25 pm Wheels Down Sussex Co Airport
5:00 – 6:45 pm Attend Sussex Jamboree
7:30 pm Wheels up Sussex Airport
8:10 pm Wheels down Andrews

Smith, Michele

27 Aug 2009 13:09:59

To: Hallie Biden, [P6/b(6)]", "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), (DSCYF), "Hunter Biden, Kathleen Biden

Cc: Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Orloff, Nancy, >", "Hallie Biden, Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), (DSCYF), "Ashley Biden ([P6/b(6)]), ([P6/b(6)]), "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin

Plans for Friday and Saturday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 14:31:20 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2009 11:05:29 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, [REDACTED] "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED]>, "Smith, Michelle" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">
Cc: Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>, "Orloff, Nancy" <nancy_orloff@ovp.eop.gov>, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">
Bcc: "Smith, Michele" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=michelle_smith">, "Orloff, Nancy" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=nancy_orloff">, Hallie Biden <halliebiden@gmail.com>, "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)" <ashley.biden@state.de.us>, "Ashley Biden" <[REDACTED]>, Kathleen Biden <[REDACTED]>, Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>, Eric Schwerin <eschwerin@senecaga.com>
Subject: UPDATE - Plans for Friday and Saturday

Burial is most likely between 4:00 and 5:00 pm on Saturday at Arlington. The VP is trying to decide if he attends and how that will impact his Jamboree plans. I will continue to provide updates as I get them.

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:17 AM
To: Smith, Michele; Hallie Biden; Ashley Biden [REDACTED]; Biden Ashley B (DSCYF); 'Hunter Biden'; Kathleen Biden
Cc: Eric Schwerin; Orloff, Nancy
Subject: RE: Plans for Friday and Saturday

One additional note – VP is attending the Little League World Series in Williamsport on Sunday, departing from DC on Sunday around 1:00 pm and returning to DC on Sunday evening around 7:45 pm Sunday evening. Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you are planning to join him for this.

Thanks, Michele

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:10 AM
To: 'Hallie Biden'; 'Ashley Biden' [REDACTED]; 'Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)'; 'Hunter Biden'; 'Kathleen Biden'
Cc: 'Eric Schwerin'; Orloff, Nancy
Subject: Plans for Friday and Saturday
Importance: High

The following is a rough sketch of the plans for travel to Boston. I will send you updates as the plans firm up today. In the meantime, please let me know what you are thinking about in terms of your plans.

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12:50 pm Wheels Up

1:50 pm Wheels Down, New Castle Co. Airport – **NOTE: this plane will continue on to Washington, DC with a wheels up at approximately 3:00 pm, wheels down at Andrews at 3:40 pm. VP will take a different plane on to Sussex.**

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3:50 pm Arrive NCCo Airport

4:00 pm Wheels up

4:25 pm Wheels Down Sussex Co Airport

5:00 – 6:45 pm Attend Sussex Jamboree

7:30 pm Wheels up Sussex Airport

8:10 pm Wheels down Andrews

Smith, Michele

27 Aug 2009 15:05:29

To: Smith, Michele, Hallie Biden, [P6/b(6)]", "Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), Hunter Biden, (DSCYF), "Kathleen Biden, Smith, Michelle

Cc: Eric Schwerin, Orloff, Nancy, Orloff, Nancy

Bcc: Smith, Michele, >", "Orloff, Nancy, >", "Hallie Biden, Biden Ashley B (DSCYF), (DSCYF), "Ashley Biden ([P6/b(6)]), ([P6/b(6)]), "Kathleen Biden, Hunter Biden, Eric Schwerin

UPDATE - Plans for Friday and Saturday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 15:40:28 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

REDACTED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Smith, Michele

06 Apr 2009 14:15:02

To: Hunter Biden

Cc:

Bcc: Hunter Biden

RE: Tomorrow's schedule

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 10:33:38 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

P5

Notes:

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Sent: Thu, 27 Aug 2009 15:59:14 -0400
From: "Smith, Michele" <michele_smith@ovp.eop.gov>
To: Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>
Bcc: Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>
Subject: FW: UPDATES - Plans for Friday and Saturday

Haven't had a chance to discuss this with Dad this afternoon. Thoughts?

From: Biden Ashley B (DSCYF) [mailto:Ashley.Biden@state.de.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 2:27 PM
To: Smith, Michele
Subject: Re: UPDATES - Plans for Friday and Saturday

Should I attend the jam or funeral? I would have to figure out travel arrangements for boston.

Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®

From: "Smith, Michele"
Date: Thu, 27 Aug 2009 14:19:23 -0400
To: Smith, Michele<Michele_Smith@ovp.eop.gov>; Hallie Biden<halliebiden@gmail.com>;
[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]; Biden Ashley B
(DSCYF)<Ashley.Biden@state.de.us>; Hunter Biden<hbiden@senecaga.com>; Kathleen
Biden-[REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]>
Subject: UPDATES - Plans for Friday and Saturday
Friday schedule stays as is.

Saturday funeral schedule remains as is. The VP will now attend the burial at Arlington Cemetery at 5:30 pm on Saturday, and not attend the Jamboree.

He will depart out of DC for the Little League World Series on Sunday.

From: Smith, Michele
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:10 AM
To: 'Hallie Biden'; 'Ashley Biden [REDACTED] FOIA-6 [REDACTED]'; 'Biden Ashley B (DSCYF)'; 'Hunter Biden';
'Kathleen Biden'
Cc: 'Eric Schwerin'; Orloff, Nancy
Subject: Plans for Friday and Saturday
Importance: High

The following is a rough sketch of the plans for travel to Boston. I will send you updates as the plans firm up today. In the meantime, please let me know what you are thinking about in terms of your plans.

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12:50 pm Wheels Up

1:50 pm Wheels Down, New Castle Co. Airport – **NOTE: this plane will continue on to Washington, DC with a wheels up at approximately 3:00 pm, wheels down at Andrews at 3:40 pm. VP will take a different plane on to Sussex.**

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4:25 pm Wheels Down Sussex Co Airport

5:00 – 6:45 pm Attend Sussex Jamboree

7:30 pm Wheels up Sussex Airport

8:10 pm Wheels down Andrews

Confidentiality Notice – This electronic mail transmission and any attachment(s) are privileged and confidential and are intended only for the review of the party to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete the unintended message received. Unintended transmission shall not constitute waiver of work product or any other privilege.

Smith, Michele

27 Aug 2009 19:59:14

To: Hunter Biden

Cc:

Bcc: Hunter Biden

FW: UPDATES - Plans for Friday and Saturday

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Mon Sep 16 15:48:26 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6

Notes:

Personal email addresses redacted

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Bernal, Anthony R.

22 Jan 2010 21:26:07

To: bbiden@comcast.net, hbiden@senecaga.com

Cc: Ryan, Evan M., Hoffman, Alan L., Hire, Elisabeth, Russell, Catherine M., Hire, Elisabeth, >, "Hoffman, Alan L., >", "Ryan, Evan M., >", "Russell, Catherine M.

Bcc: Ryan, Evan M., >, "Hoffman, Alan L., >", "Hire, Elisabeth, >", "Russell, Catherine M.

Memo and Schedule

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Tue Sep 17 09:50:18 EDT 2024

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

P5

Notes:

Case ID: PA 2022-0120-F-3

Additional Information:

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Tomasini, AnnMarie

Wed, 21 Oct 2009 18:19:09 -0400

To: hbiden@senecaga.com

Bcc: hbiden@senecaga.com

FW: PM VPOTUS Mentions PLUS PICS

Attachments: 091021-PM Biden Mentions.doc (671.5 KB)

Check Finny out.

From: Blanck intern, Adam

Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 6:12 PM

To: Carney, James F.; Alexander, Elizabeth; Allen, Elizabeth M.; Tomasini, AnnMarie; Teper, Matthew S.; Mangino intern, Andrew

Subject: PM VPOTUS Mentions PLUS PICS

**Afternoon VPOTUS Mentions
October 21, 2009**

PICTURES FROM POLAND AND ROMANIA:





FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION



FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION



OBTAINED THROUGH LITIGATION
FIRST AMERICAN LEGAL FORUM



Jolanta Kwasniewska
COMMUNICATION WITHOUT
BARRIERS FOUNDATION

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Joseph R. Biden

FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION



NEWS CLIPS:

New York Times

[Poland Agrees to Accept U.S. Missile Interceptors](#)

By PETER BAKER

WARSAW — Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. moved to repair a rift with Eastern Europe on Wednesday by announcing an agreement to station interceptors from President Obama's reformulated missile defense system on the territory of this NATO ally.

Mr. Obama angered Poland last month by canceling former President George W. Bush's anti-missile shield, including plans to deploy 10 ground-based interceptors here. Although Mr. Obama denied it, many in Eastern Europe perceived the move as a sell-out to Russia, which adamantly opposed the Bush system.

Reuters

[Poland ready to take part in Obama missile defence](#)

By Gareth Jones

WARSAW, Oct 21 (Reuters) - Poland stands ready to take part in the revamped missile defence system unveiled by Washington last month, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said after meeting U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday.

Poland and the Czech Republic are still smarting from President Barack Obama's decision to scrap Bush-era plans under which they would have hosted elements of an ambitious missile shield to protect against possible long-range attack from Iran.

AP

[Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal](#)

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's prime minister said Wednesday that his country is ready to participate in President Barack Obama's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

Speaking alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Donald Tusk welcomed the Obama administration's proposal for a missile shield that would replace a bulkier version previously planned for Poland.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk told reporters.

The Hill

[BIDEN, Polish PM affirm plans for new missile system in Europe](#)

By Michael O'Brien

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk affirmed plans to establish a new U.S. missile defense system in Poland.

During an appearance in the Polish capital of Warsaw on Wednesday morning, the two leaders announced a new program to be hosted in Poland to replace the previous missile defense program cancelled by President Barack Obama earlier this year.

AFP

[BIDEN denies Russia 'reset' will hit east European allies](#)

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday denied Washington was side-lining its east European allies, ahead of talks with Polish leaders amid concerns in the region over the US "reset" of ties with Moscow.

"We have said clearly that our steps toward improving relations with Russia will not come at the expense of central Europe," **BIDEN** told the Polish daily Rzeczpospolita as he kicked off a trip to Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania.

AFP

[BIDEN honours memory of 1943 Warsaw ghetto fighters](#)

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Wednesday paid tribute to Jewish fighters who battled Nazi Germany in the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising, which has come to symbolise courage against overwhelming odds.

Flanked by a Polish army honour guard, **BIDEN** solemnly laid a wreath at the foot of the imposing monument unveiled in 1948 near the site of the fighters' last stand in their ill-fated revolt.

AP

[Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal](#)

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — Standing alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Poland's prime minister said Wednesday his country was ready to participate in the Obama administration's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

President Barack Obama removed a major irritant in relations with Russia last month by scrapping U.S. plans to place 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles from "rouge" states such as Iran. The Bush-era plan had enraged Moscow.

ABC News

[In Warsaw, Vice President BIDEN Welcomes Poland's Cooperation on Missile Defense System](#)

By Karen Travers

In Warsaw today, Vice President **BIDEN** welcomed the announcement from Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk that his country would participate in a revamped U.S. missile defense system in eastern Europe.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan," the vice president said.

Wall Street Journal

[After Antimissile Mess, BIDEN Tries Charm Offensive with Poland](#)

By Peter Spiegel

When President Barack Obama announced he was scrapping Bush administration plans to build a long-range missile defense system in Eastern Europe, there was no country more angry about the move than Poland, which was to have hosted 10 interceptor missiles as part of the ground-based system...

... But the frosty relationship between Warsaw and Washington that developed in the wake of the decision may be thawing.

At a news conference with Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk — who had reportedly refused to take a late-night phone call from Obama when he rang to break the news last month — said his country was ready to participate in a new regional antimissile system proposed by the U.S.

Bloomberg

BIDEN Wins Poland's Acceptance of Anti-Missile Plan

By Katya Andrusz and Nathaniel Espino

Oct. 21 (Bloomberg) -- U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** secured Poland's commitment to assist with a proposed missile-defense system and invited one of America's "closest allies" to join efforts to improve relations with Russia. Poland, which was disappointed by the U.S. announcement on Sept. 17 to scrap a plan to locate a fixed-base anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic that had aroused objections from Russia, enjoys an "absolute" U.S. commitment to its defense, **BIDEN** said at a news conference in Warsaw today, lauding Polish soldiers' "great sacrifices" in Afghanistan.

AP

US VP BIDEN woos Poland after missile program cut

By RYAN LUCAS and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** sought reconciliation with America's staunch allies in eastern Europe Wednesday, starting with Poland, which eagerly signed on to a revamped U.S. missile shield. A month after the Obama administration stung Poland by scrapping a Bush-era plan that would have placed a major anti-missile base in the country, the Polish prime minister and president gave their backing to the scaled-down alternative. That was an achievement for **BIDEN** who will take his message to Romania and the Czech Republic.

Washington Times

BIDEN, Polish leaders agree on revised missile plan

Matthew Mosk

WARSAW -- The Obama administration reached a new agreement Wednesday with top Polish government officials to place a new generation of missile interceptors on Polish soil, a surprising turnabout from just a few weeks earlier when it appeared the United States was ready to abandon its missile defense program in Eastern Europe. Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk emerged from a lengthy private discussion to announce that Poland's participation in the missile defense system was, essentially, back on -- though in a new format that involves delivering a smaller number of defensive weapons in 2018.

CNN

Poland agrees to host part of new U.S. missile defense plan

(CNN) -- Poland has agreed to host elements of the new U.S. missile defense plan despite initial surprise over the Obama administration's recent decision to overhaul President Bush's strategy.

"We are ready to participate in the project," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who made the announcement Wednesday with Vice President Joe **BIDEN** in Warsaw.

BIDEN said the United States was appreciative when Poland was willing to host an element of the now-scraped missile defense plan proposed by the Bush administration and is grateful for its continued support.

Financial Times

Poland joins new US missile defence system

By Jan Cienski in Warsaw

Poland will participate in a new US missile defence programme, Donald Tusk, the prime minister, said on Wednesday after meeting Joe **BIDEN**, US vice-president.

"The project of a new configuration of missile defence is very interesting. We want to take part," Mr Tusk said.

The missile defence plan is a replacement for an interceptor system proposed by the Bush administration to defend the US against Iran but abandoned under Barack Obama, president.

Wall Street Journal

BIDEN Late With Poland Visit

By Marcin Sobczyk

After a number of American decisions interpreted as slaps in Poland's face, the U.S. now sends its Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** to the biggest Central European country for a series of conciliatory smiles, handshakes and back patting. Of course, Polish politicians smile back, but the reality is Poland no longer has that warm feeling in its heart when it thinks "America."

Not a long time ago the **BIDEN** visit would be a big deal here – for decades, Poles were passionately, madly in love with

the United States. America was the preferred country to immigrate to, the Promised Land with everything the best and the biggest, an idealized paradise.

AP

[NATO to meet on Afghanistan, missile defense](#)

By VANESSA GERA and SLOBODAN LEKIC

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — NATO defense ministers will meet here Thursday to discuss the war in Afghanistan and the growing support for President Barack Obama's plans for a new missile defense system in Europe...

... The meeting in Bratislava comes as U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits Central Europe, with stops in Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. He is discussing the new U.S. missile defense plan and reassuring the strongly pro-American countries that Washington still supports them, even though it scrapped the Bush-era missile defense plan for sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Russia strongly opposed Bush's plan and has welcomed Obama's shift away from it, creating some nervousness in Warsaw and Prague.

AP

['Possible' Obama Afghan announcement before Nov. 7](#)

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday it's "certainly possible" that President Barack Obama could announce before a scheduled new election in Afghanistan whether to send more troops into the U.S. war there...

... The president was scheduled to have his next Afghanistan meeting this week. But Gibbs said it has been put off until at least next week while key administration players — such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — are away on overseas trips.

AFP

[BIDEN arrives in Romania on second leg of east European tour](#)

BUCHAREST — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Romania Wednesday after a one-day visit to Warsaw where he secured Poland's approval for a new US anti-missile system.

BIDEN's plane touched down at Bucharest airport at 20H30 local time (17H30 GMT), according to an AFP photographer.

Bucharest is the second leg of a three-nation east European tour also including the Czech Republic, aimed at reaffirming the US partnership with the countries in the region.

AP

[Obama hits campaign trail for NJ Gov. Jon Corzine](#)

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, doing his part to help keep a Democrat in charge of New Jersey, was heading there Wednesday to campaign for Gov. Jon Corzine...

...Obama's appearance Wednesday in support of Corzine follows campaign visits to New Jersey this week by Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton.

Christian Science Monitor

[Can Obama rescue Corzine in New Jersey governor's race?](#)

By Ron Scherer

When President Obama travels to New Jersey Wednesday night, he might think he's running for office in the Garden State because Gov. Jon Corzine (D), in an effort to win votes, has erected billboards extolling "Obama Corzine."...

... Obama is not the only Democratic dignitary to hit the state for Corzine's campaign. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton have come visiting, too.

Reuters

[Obama wades into Democrats' tough governor races](#)

By Patricia Zengerle

MCLEAN, Virginia (Reuters) - U.S. President Barack Obama threw himself into the role of "campaigner in chief" on Wednesday, making appeals for Democratic candidates in two state governor races that some see as a referendum on his performance in the White House...

... Corzine, a former executive with investment firm Goldman Sachs, is locked in a tight re-election battle with Republican Christopher Christie, who has clung to a small poll lead despite appearances by Obama and Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

New York Times

Fate of White House Counsel Is in Doubt After Bruising Fights

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — Every morning, Gregory B. Craig, the White House counsel, sits at the conference table of the Roosevelt Room with the rest of the president's senior staff.

His colleagues greet him, friendly as always. He updates the room on his issues and listens as they update him on theirs.

The one issue that does not come up? Mr. Craig himself...

... Similarly, after Mr. Craig started the search that produced the Supreme Court nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Mr. Emanuel assigned the confirmation fight to Ronald A. Klain and Cynthia Hogan, aides to Vice President Joseph R.

BIDEN Jr. with long experience handling judicial appointments.

FULL TEXT:

New York Times

Poland Agrees to Accept U.S. Missile Interceptors

By PETER BAKER

WARSAW — Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. moved to repair a rift with Eastern Europe on Wednesday by announcing an agreement to station interceptors from President Obama's reformulated missile defense system on the territory of this NATO ally.

Mr. Obama angered Poland last month by canceling former President George W. Bush's anti-missile shield, including plans to deploy 10 ground-based interceptors here. Although Mr. Obama denied it, many in Eastern Europe perceived the move as a sell-out to Russia, which adamantly opposed the Bush system.

The deal to base here some of the smaller, mobile SM-3 interceptors at the heart of Mr. Obama's new missile defense plan may help reassure the region that the United States remains committed to its security. To further reinforce the point, Mr. **BIDEN** plans to fly later in the week to the Czech Republic, which was also part of the Bush system and riled by its cancellation, to discuss basing elements of the Obama missile shield there.

The new missile defense system "is a very interesting concept and a very much needed one and we are ready to participate in this project on the necessary scale," Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland said after meeting with Mr. **BIDEN** here.

The vice president hailed the decision as evidence that the administration's new missile plan was superior to Mr. Bush's. "Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and it's better security for Poland, not only better security for the United States of America," Mr. **BIDEN** said.

In deference to Polish sensitivities, Mr. **BIDEN** emphasized repeatedly America's friendship with Poland and its obligation under Article 5 of the NATO treaty to come to Poland's defense if it were ever attacked. "Make no mistake,

our commitment to Poland is unwavering,” Mr. **BIDEN** said.

Mr. Obama scrapped the Bush anti-missile shield last month, arguing that it was designed to meet the wrong threat. While Mr. Bush’s system was intended to counter intercontinental ballistic missiles that Iran could eventually develop, Mr. Obama’s plan focuses more on short- and medium-range missiles that Iran already has and is improving. Even as he scratched deployment of Mr. Bush’s system, Mr. Obama did not completely abandon it, agreeing to continue research and development in case Iran does make a breakthrough on intercontinental missiles down the road.

The new system envisions stationing existing SM-3 interceptors on Aegis-equipped ships in the Mediterranean Sea and elsewhere by 2011, and on land in Eastern Europe by 2015. A more advanced system would be deployed by 2018 and another generation, theoretically capable of shooting down intercontinental missiles, by 2020.

The SM-3 interceptors that would be based in Poland would be deployed in 2018, according to a National Security Council official traveling with Mr. **BIDEN**, roughly the same timeframe the Bush interceptors would have been stationed here. The official said it was too early to determine how many of the SM-3 interceptors would be deployed here. The Polish parliament still needs to ratify the plan.

Mr. Obama insisted that his decision to ditch Mr. Bush’s plan was driven not by Russian objections but by updated assessments of the Iranian threat and the availability of better technology to counter it. But here in a region fraught with a difficult history with Moscow, it was seen as a betrayal of some of America’s strongest allies in Europe in the interest of Mr. Obama’s attempt to “reset” relations with Russia.

The anger was exacerbated by what White House officials privately acknowledge was a botched roll-out of the new plan. Mr. Obama’s decision to shelve the Bush system leaked, but initial news reports said little if anything about his plan to build a substitute system, fueling the perception that he had abandoned missile defense altogether in a concession to Russia. Worse still in terms of relations with Eastern Europe, the news emerged on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland at the start of World War II.

“Could we have handled it better, differently? You can always handle things better,” said Antony J. Blinken, Mr. **BIDEN**’s national security adviser. “What really created an initial problem were headlines that fundamentally misunderstood, or misrepresented, what we were doing.”

But he added, “the more allies have been focused on the details and the specifics, the stronger the support has been.”

The Obama administration has flooded the region with visits from civilian and military officials to explain those details and assuage fears. Mr. **BIDEN** is the highest ranking official to come and has credibility in the region because of his tough views of Russia during its war with neighboring Georgia last year.

Mr. **BIDEN** began his visit here with a wreath laying ceremony at the Warsaw Ghetto Monument commemorating the failed Jewish uprising against Nazi occupiers in 1943. He plans to fly later in the day to Bucharest, Romania, where his longtime adviser, Mark Gitenstein, is now ambassador, and then after a day of talks will move on to Prague before returning to Washington on Friday night.

Reuters

Poland ready to take part in Obama missile defence

By Gareth Jones

WARSAW, Oct 21 (Reuters) - Poland stands ready to take part in the revamped missile defence system unveiled by Washington last month, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said after meeting U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday.

Poland and the Czech Republic are still smarting from President Barack Obama's decision to scrap Bush-era plans under which they would have hosted elements of an ambitious missile shield to protect against possible long-range attack from Iran.

Russia strongly opposed the plans, fearing they would neutralise its own nuclear arsenal.

"Poland finds the new anti-missile project as very interesting and important and, in the appropriate scale, we are ready to participate," Tusk told a joint news conference.

BIDEN, on the first leg of his European visit, stressed that new system would be more effective and would cover a much greater part of European territory than the previous Bush plan.

"I welcome the prime minister's declaration that Poland stands ready to host elements of missile defence," he said.

Obama's new plan envisages the deployment first of sea-based interceptors and then of land-based systems. Under this arrangement, Poland could host SM-3 interceptors targeting short and medium-range missiles.

Raising concerns in Poland and other former Soviet satellites, Obama has made "resetting" relations with Russia a major foreign policy objective as he needs Moscow's cooperation on Iran, Afghanistan and other strategic issues.

Russia has welcomed his decision to shelve the Bush missile shield plan, which Moscow had regarded as a direct threat to its own security. It is awaiting more details on the new missile defence plans but says they are less worrisome.

AP

Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's prime minister said Wednesday that his country is ready to participate in President Barack Obama's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

Speaking alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Donald Tusk welcomed the Obama administration's proposal for a missile shield that would replace a bulkier version previously planned for Poland.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk told reporters.

The Obama administration scrapped a Bush-era plan that would have put 10 missile interceptors in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles launched from so-called "rogue" states such as Iran.

Instead, the Obama administration has proposed a reconfigured system that envisions putting the U.S. Navy's Standard Missile-3 on ships and land-based versions in Europe. The Pentagon says the anti-ballistic missile is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Iran's anticipated arsenal.

BIDEN, who was on the first stop of a three-nation trip to eastern Europe aimed at reassuring Washington's allies in the region of its support, praised Warsaw for its readiness to accept the revamped plan.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Sketching out the Obama administration's vision for the missile defense, **BIDEN** said the new approach would meet "a growing threat" to the U.S. and Europe.

"It's going to meet it with proven technology that will cover more of Europe, including Poland, and will do it more efficiently than the previous system could have or did," he said.

"Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and is better security for Poland."

The Hill

BIDEN, Polish PM affirm plans for new missile system in Europe

By Michael O'Brien

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk affirmed plans to establish a new U.S. missile defense system in Poland.

During an appearance in the Polish capital of Warsaw on Wednesday morning, the two leaders announced a new

program to be hosted in Poland to replace the previous missile defense program cancelled by President Barack Obama earlier this year.

The new system would place new missiles ("SM3s") in Poland, which, according to a pool report, **BIDEN** described as more modern and effective in protecting Europe. The previous system had called for missile interceptors in Poland, complemented by a radar base in the Czech Republic.

"We are ready to participate in this project," Tusk said in a joint appearance with **BIDEN**, adding that the new program "is considered by Poland to be a very interesting idea."

"Make no mistake about it, our commitment to Poland is unwavering," **BIDEN** said in brief remarks. "We are thankful, we are thankful, for your soldiers standing alongside ours in Afghanistan."

AFP

BIDEN denies Russia 'reset' will hit east European allies

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday denied Washington was side-lining its east European allies, ahead of talks with Polish leaders amid concerns in the region over the US "reset" of ties with Moscow.

"We have said clearly that our steps toward improving relations with Russia will not come at the expense of central Europe," **BIDEN** told the Polish daily Rzeczpospolita as he kicked off a trip to Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania.

The interview was published in Polish, and an English-language transcript of **BIDEN**'s original remarks was not immediately available from the newspaper or the US embassy in Warsaw.

BIDEN, who arrived in Warsaw late Tuesday, met with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and was due to hold talks with President Lech Kaczynski.

His trip comes just a month after the administration of US President Barack Obama decided to shelve a plan, fiercely opposed by Russia, to set up an anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The plan -- which was pushed by Obama's predecessor George W. Bush in what Washington said was a drive to ward off Iranian threats -- included the deployment by 2013 of missile interceptors in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic.

Warsaw and Prague questioned Washington's decision, after sticking their necks out for the United States and facing the wrath of their Soviet-era master Moscow, which threatened to train its nuclear warheads on their territory in response.

Obama said that after a rethink, and the realisation that Iran was developing its own missiles more slowly than anticipated, his administration was opting for a more flexible system. That is expected to include ship-based missile interceptors.

Plans for a US military presence in Poland and the Czech Republic -- which joined NATO in 1999 -- are not off the table, however.

After talks with Polish officials last week in Warsaw a senior US negotiator said the United States will deploy ground-to-air Patriot missiles in Poland in 2010.

In September, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said that aside from the Patriots, Washington aims to deploy a new SM-3 anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic in 2015.

Kaczynski on Tuesday said that plan was "not bad" and that he would ask **BIDEN** about a timeframe.

BIDEN is due to spend Thursday in Romania before visiting the Czech Republic on Friday.

AFP

BIDEN honours memory of 1943 Warsaw ghetto fighters

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Wednesday paid tribute to Jewish fighters who battled Nazi Germany in the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising, which has come to symbolise courage against overwhelming odds.

Flanked by a Polish army honour guard, **BIDEN** solemnly laid a wreath at the foot of the imposing monument unveiled in 1948 near the site of the fighters' last stand in their ill-fated revolt.

The wreath of red, white and blue flowers -- the colours of the US flag -- bore a ribbon reading "In Memory of the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising".

BIDEN then stood with his right hand over his heart as a bugler played a salute, before a choir of children sang a Jewish song and he spoke with dignitaries including Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich.

After invading Poland in 1939, Nazi Germany isolated Polish Jews inside ghettos across the country, before beginning their systematic campaign of mass murder in the Holocaust.

At its height, around 450,000 people were crammed into the walled Warsaw ghetto, including Jews brought from other European nations. About 100,000 died inside from starvation and disease. Most of the rest were sent to the Treblinka death camp in northeast Poland in mass deportations in 1942.

A handful of Jewish paramilitary groups, mostly made up of people in their teens and twenties, were formed in the Warsaw ghetto.

The poorly armed fighters first clashed with Nazi troops on January 18-22, 1943, managing to hinder the deportations.

On April 19, the Nazis began liquidating the ghetto, where just 60,000 people remained, and the fighters rose up again.

"We knew perfectly well that there was no way we could win. It was a symbol of the fight for freedom. A symbol of standing up to Nazism, and of not giving in," the uprising's last commander, Marek Edelman, told AFP in a 2008 interview. Edelman died in Warsaw on October 2 aged 90.

The insurrection lasted three weeks, until the Nazis razed the ghetto, killing and deporting the vast majority of those who had been unable to flee.

BIDEN arrived in Poland late Tuesday, kicking off a tour of eastern Europe that will also see him visit Romania and the Czech Republic.

AP

Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**

WARSAW, Poland — Standing alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Poland's prime minister said Wednesday his country was ready to participate in the Obama administration's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

President Barack Obama removed a major irritant in relations with Russia last month by scrapping U.S. plans to place 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles from "rouge" states such as Iran. The Bush-era plan had enraged Moscow.

The Kremlin has praised Obama for the decision, but Russian officials also have said they want to know more about what missile defense system the U.S. will use instead.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk welcomed the U.S. proposal for a missile shield that would replace a bulkier version previously planned for Poland.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk said at a news conference with **BIDEN**.

BIDEN, on the first stop of a three-nation trip aimed at reassuring Washington's allies in the region of its support, praised Warsaw for its readiness to accept the revamped plan. His trip was the highest-level visit yet by the Obama administration to Poland.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

BIDEN said the new approach would meet "a growing threat" to the U.S. and Europe.

"It's going to meet it with proven technology that will cover more of Europe, including Poland, and will do it more efficiently than the previous system," he said. "Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and is better security for Poland."

BIDEN was also meeting with Polish President Lech Kaczynski and was slated to meet with Polish soldiers who have served in NATO's mission in Afghanistan. He travels next to Romania and then to the Czech Republic on Friday.

Under Obama's new missile defense plan, U.S. Navy ships equipped with anti-missile weapons — such as the Navy's Standard Missile-3 — would form a front line of defense in the eastern Mediterranean. Those would be combined with land-based anti-missile systems to be placed on shore in Europe.

The proposal calls for a focus on short and medium-range interceptors to better counter expected threats from Iran. The Pentagon says the SM-3 anti-ballistic missile is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Tehran's anticipated arsenal.

Obama has said the old blueprint was scrapped largely because the U.S. has concluded that Iran is less focused on developing the kind of long-range missiles for which the Bush-era system was originally developed.

All three of the ex-communist countries on **BIDEN**'s trip have enjoyed cozy ties with the U.S. since Soviet-backed regimes fell 20 years ago. They have thrown their support behind Washington in its fight against terrorism, contributing troops to the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

Poland and Romania also face allegations of having hosted secret CIA prisons. Both countries deny the accusations.

Recently, regional leaders voiced nervousness that the Obama administration was ignoring the area's interests amid its push to reset relations with Russia — a power still deeply feared in eastern Europe.

BIDEN aims to reassure the region during his trip that Washington will not strike any deals with Russia over the heads of its allies.

ABC News

In Warsaw, Vice President BIDEN Welcomes Poland's Cooperation on Missile Defense System

By Karen Travers

In Warsaw today, Vice President **BIDEN** welcomed the announcement from Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk that his country would participate in a revamped U.S. missile defense system in eastern Europe.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan," the vice president said.

"Poland considers the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate level to participate," Tusk said at the news conference with **BIDEN**.

Poland was the first stop on **BIDEN**'s three day trip to Eastern Europe that appeared to be aimed at smoothing over relations with U.S. allies there after the Obama administration's announced it would abandon existing plans for a missile defense system based in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The White House announced last month that it was switching gears and instead of the land-based system developed by the Bush administration, would pursue a sea-based system to target short and medium range missiles aimed at Europe.

The announcement caught the central European allies off guard and was met with great concern by the leaders of Poland and the Czech Republic.

BIDEN's trip is the first visit by a high-level U.S. official to the region since the announcement and today he touted the revamped system as the best way "to defend against the emerging ballistic missile threats."

"Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO, and is better security for Poland, and ultimately better security for the United States of America," the vice president said.

BIDEN thanked Tusk and Polish President Lech Kaczynski for the service Polish troops have given in Afghanistan.

"They are genuine warriors, and they are making great sacrifices," he said. "We are thankful for your soldiers standing alongside of ours in Afghanistan, also in Iraq and the Balkans."

BIDEN later met with Polish veterans who have served in Afghanistan.

BIDEN's next stop is Romania on Thursday and he finishes his trip in the Czech Republic on Friday.

Wall Street Journal

After Antimissile Mess, BIDEN Tries Charm Offensive with Poland

By Peter Spiegel

When President Barack Obama announced he was scrapping Bush administration plans to build a long-range missile defense system in Eastern Europe, there was no country more angry about the move than Poland, which was to have hosted 10 interceptor missiles as part of the ground-based system.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, for instance, went on local radio to say he believed the decision would provide a "shock" to the Polish foreign policy establishment that would force it to look to Europe for security assurances rather than relying on "the dream of basing everything on a bilateral alliance with the United States."

But the frosty relationship between Warsaw and Washington that developed in the wake of the decision may be thawing.

At a news conference with Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk – who had reportedly refused to take a late-night phone call from Obama when he rang to break the news last month – said his country was ready to participate in a new regional antimissile system proposed by the U.S.

Tusk's backing was somewhat lukewarm; he described the new system as "very interesting, necessary" and that Poland was ready to participate "at the appropriate scale." But U.S. officials have hinted that Poland could host a vast array of U.S.-built Standard Missile-3s, the mid-range interceptor that the new system will be built around.

BIDEN, who will also visit the Czech Republic (which was to host a large radar under the Bush-era system) as part of his Eastern Europe charm offensive, said he appreciated Tusk's support and insisted that Obama's plan will provide more security for Europe, since it is aimed at an existing threat – short and medium-range missiles from Iran – and can be deployed more quickly.

"We now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way, a better way – with new technology and new information – to defend against the emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Bloomberg

BIDEN Wins Poland's Acceptance of Anti-Missile Plan

By Katya Andrusz and Nathaniel Espino

Oct. 21 (Bloomberg) -- U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** secured Poland's commitment to assist with a proposed missile-defense system and invited one of America's "closest allies" to join efforts to improve relations with Russia.

Poland, which was disappointed by the U.S. announcement on Sept. 17 to scrap a plan to locate a fixed-base anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic that had aroused objections from Russia, enjoys an "absolute" U.S. commitment to its defense, **BIDEN** said at a news conference in Warsaw today, lauding Polish soldiers' "great sacrifices" in Afghanistan.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk told reporters his country's views on security and other issues were virtually "identical" with those of the U.S., including a revamped plan to use SM-3 1A missiles with sea-based or mobile

platforms to defend against long-range missiles from states including Iran.

“Poland considers the whole SM-3 missile-defense project very interesting and we’re ready to participate, on the appropriate scale,” Tusk said.

President Barack Obama said on Sept. 17 he was scrapping plans to base a system in Poland and the Czech Republic that would defend against long-range missiles from states including Iran. He said the U.S. would develop a new system comprised of SM-3 1A missiles aimed at reducing the threat from short- and medium- range missiles.

Additional Safeguard

The announcement which came on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union’s invasion of Poland at the start of World War II, bruised sensitivities in Warsaw.

“We want to have good relations with Russia, but we have to take care of our security as well,” Pawel Wypych, an aide to President Lech Kaczynski, said in an interview. “Being members of the European Union and of NATO gives us some security guarantees, but we’d like to have the additional safeguard of having a broader defense system on Polish territory.”

Polish leaders want the U.S. to follow through on plans to install the missiles and base American soldiers on Polish soil, even in the face of objections from Russia, he said.

BIDEN said he told Tusk and Kaczynski in separate meetings today that the U.S. had ditched plans for fixed-based missiles because they were technologically outdated, not due to Russian pressure. “Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO, and is better security for Poland,” **BIDEN** said after meeting Tusk.

‘Filled With Optimism’

Kaczynski, who asked for details on the new system, told a news briefing at the presidential palace in Warsaw that he is “filled with optimism” on U.S.-Polish relations after meeting **BIDEN** today. The Vice President said the discussions with Kaczynski had touched on ways to improve relations with Russia, adding that he hoped Poland would take part in a broader effort encompassing the entire NATO alliance.

After meeting Kaczynski and with Polish veterans of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, **BIDEN** will fly to Bucharest and Prague.

Eugeniusz Smolar, a foreign-affairs specialist at the Center for International Relations, said Obama’s change in plans has made missile defense less controversial in the U.S.

“The missile shield was always a Republican concept, but now, with Obama’s amendments to the project, it’s become bipartisan for the first time,” Smolar said by telephone from Warsaw. “And the new version is more NATO-oriented, too.”

Troops Stationed

About 100 U.S. troops would be stationed in Poland to maintain the missiles, each costing the U.S. around \$10 million, Polish daily Dziennik Gazeta Prawna reported earlier this month. The SM-3 1A is made by Waltham, Massachusetts-based Raytheon Co.

Before **BIDEN**’s visit, his national- security adviser, Tony Blinken, said there had never been any plan to discard missile defense and Poland would have “first refusal” to host the SM- 3s.

“It was unfortunate that some of the initial headlines, when the decision was announced, talked about the U.S. ‘abandoning’ missile defense in Europe,” Blinken told reporters on an Oct. 19 conference call. “It’s exactly the opposite. The approach we’re taking strengthens missile defense in Europe.”

Leaders in Poland and other countries in central Europe have expressed suspicions about Russia’s intentions in the region, which was dominated by the Soviet Union for more than four decades after World War II.

Strained Relations

Polish-Russian relations have been strained by Poland’s backing of NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia, which Russia opposes, and a Russian-German plan to build a pipeline under the Baltic Sea that would carry Russian gas

directly to Poland's western neighbor, Germany.

Polish leaders want Obama to honor an agreement signed with the Bush administration last year for the delivery of a battery of Patriot air-defense missiles, also made by Raytheon. It is unclear whether Obama will station the missiles in Poland on a permanent basis, as the European Union's largest eastern member wants, or rotate them between countries.

"Poland is faced with the problem of changing and building up its air-defense system, so the Patriots could be a vital element of this," Wypych said. "It would also prove that we are an important partner for the U.S., that the administration knows it can rely on us."

AP

US VP BIDEN woos Poland after missile program cut

By RYAN LUCAS and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** sought reconciliation with America's staunch allies in eastern Europe Wednesday, starting with Poland, which eagerly signed on to a revamped U.S. missile shield.

A month after the Obama administration stung Poland by scrapping a Bush-era plan that would have placed a major anti-missile base in the country, the Polish prime minister and president gave their backing to the scaled-down alternative. That was an achievement for **BIDEN** who will take his message to Romania and the Czech Republic.

Premier Donald Tusk signed on to President Barack Obama's revamped U.S. missile shield, declaring Poland ready to participate in the project, which is intended to counter threats from Iran.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk told reporters at a news conference with **BIDEN**.

The Obama plan would place SM-3 anti-ballistic missiles at a former air base in the town of Redzikowo in northern Poland — the same site that was to host U.S. missile interceptors in underground silos under the Bush plan.

Poland views hosting a U.S. missile defense base as a means to cement its security ties with Washington, particularly in the face of a resurgent Russia.

The Poles "had to accept this version (of missile defense) even though there were a lot of negative comments coming out of Warsaw when the revamped system's details were released," said Marko Papic, a Eurasia analyst for Stratfor, a U.S.-based global intelligence company. "But then again a lot of that was just emotion from being 'abandoned.'"

Moscow, meanwhile, perceives the new plan as less threatening because it wouldn't initially involve interceptors capable of shooting down Russia's intercontinental ballistic missiles, experts say.

"It won't pose any threat until 2020," Retired Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin, who formerly headed a Russian Defense Ministry structure in charge of arms control negotiations, said last month.

"But that threat will only exist if our relations with the U.S. remain marred by controversy and we fail to agree on joint development and use of missile defense," he said. Russia has not officially reacted to the new plan.

President Barack Obama's decision to scrap the Bush plan removed a major irritant in U.S. relations with Russia. But it also sparked fears among the ex-communist nations of Eastern Europe — which have been among the staunchest U.S. allies since Communism's collapse in 1989 — that Obama was sacrificing their interests in order to improve ties with the Kremlin.

BIDEN's visit to Poland — and later stops in Romania and the Czech Republic — aim to reassure Washington's allies of its support and to dispel fears that the administration is ignoring their interests amid its push to reset relations with Russia.

All three of countries on **BIDEN**'s trip have viewed the U.S. as the guarantor of their security since shedding Soviet-backed regimes 20 years ago as communism unraveled and setting their sites on the West. Eager to bring them into the western fold, Washington spearheaded the successful drive to make the trio members of NATO.

In return, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic have thrown their support behind Washington in its fight against terrorism, contributing troops to the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

The Bush-era project would have placed 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles from Iran.

Under Obama's new missile defense plan, U.S. Navy ships equipped with anti-missile weapons — such as the Navy's Standard Missile-3 — would form a front line of defense in the eastern Mediterranean. Those would be combined with land-based anti-missile systems to be placed on shore in Europe.

The proposal calls for a focus on short and medium-range interceptors to better counter expected threats from Iran. The Pentagon says the SM-3 anti-ballistic missile is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Tehran's anticipated arsenal. No new details of the plan were announced Wednesday.

Obama has said the old blueprint was scrapped largely because the U.S. has concluded that Iran is less focused on developing the kind of long range missiles for which the Bush-era system was originally developed.

BIDEN said the U.S. administration's new approach would meet "a growing threat" to the U.S. and Europe, and praised Poland for its readiness to sign on.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Eugeniusz Smolar, the director of the Center for International Relations in Warsaw, said adopting the Obama administration's approach was an easy call for Poland.

"This proposal is much more Europe oriented because the new system is to deal more with the medium- and short-range threats, and this is exactly what Poland has been seeking," Smolar said.

He added that the new plan is also "more NATO oriented, which is good, because it means there will be much less tension among the allies who have been complaining that Poland has been doing its own agreement with the U.S. outside of NATO."

BIDEN also met with Polish President Lech Kaczynski and Polish soldiers who have served in NATO's mission in Afghanistan before departing for Romania.

He will visit the Czech Republic on Friday.

Washington Times

BIDEN, Polish leaders agree on revised missile plan

Matthew Mosk

WARSAW -- The Obama administration reached a new agreement Wednesday with top Polish government officials to place a new generation of missile interceptors on Polish soil, a surprising turnabout from just a few weeks earlier when it appeared the United States was ready to abandon its missile defense program in Eastern Europe.

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk emerged from a lengthy private discussion to announce that Poland's participation in the missile defense system was, essentially, back on -- though in a new format that involves delivering a smaller number of defensive weapons in 2018.

Mr. Tusk said through a translator that he considered the revised proposal "a very interesting idea."

"We are ready to participate in this project," he said.

The hastily arranged vice presidential trip, which also will include stops in Romania and the Czech Republic this week, was intended to soothe relations and reassure the fledgling NATO members that the missile program was not being scrapped, and that the evolving policy should not be viewed as a snub or a weakening of U.S. security commitments to

states in the region.

Mr. **BIDEN** had his work cut out for him. For starters, Poland and former Warsaw Pact nations once dominated by the Soviet Union already were feeling uneasy about the bilateral discussions between the United States and Russia. Then Mr. Obama, with no warning, announced the shift in missile policy on the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Poland, the wrong day for a country that remains deeply sensitive about its history with major world powers on its borders.

Placing defensive weapons in Poland and radar systems in the Czech Republic had been a program pushed aggressively by the George W. Bush administration, even though the plan raised strong objections from Russia, which argued the system could in time be used to undermine Moscow's nuclear arsenal deterrent. Polish officials came to welcome the idea, less for the military value of the weapons than for the added security of having an American military presence within their borders.

The vice president gamely waded into the sticky diplomatic situation, pouring on the charm as his meeting with Polish President Lech Kaczynski ran more than 30 minutes over its scheduled length. "When two old friends get together, they tend to talk," a smiling Mr. **BIDEN** said afterward.

Mr. Kaczynski described the conversation as "a source of optimism to me." While "there are some difficulties" still to discuss regarding missile defense, "we hope they will be resolved," he said.

In joint remarks with the prime minister, Mr. **BIDEN** did everything he could to convey America's resolute support for the security of Poland.

Noting NATO's collective security pledge, Mr. **BIDEN** said: "An attack on one is an attack on all. And this strategic assurance is absolute. Absolute, Mr. Prime Minister."

"Make no mistake about it," he continued, "our commitment to Poland is unwavering."

Toby Gati, a senior adviser on Russia and Eurasia in the Clinton White House, said that the outcome of the visit was favorable for the Poles.

"The Poles are going to do just fine under the new missile defense plans," she said. "They were smart not to make a fuss and fight the Obama administration, but instead to try to figure out ways to enhance their security with the 'new guys in charge.'"

The Kremlin, meanwhile, may end up having "buyer's remorse," she said.

"Yes, they got rid of the system Bush put forward, which they no doubt consider a political victory, but from the point of view of a U.S. 'presence' and a possible threat to Russia, as the pieces of the system are integrated, this system may be of much greater concern," Mrs. Gati said. "Unless, of course, we and the Russians do eventually cooperate on missile defense."

The vice president also delivered to the Polish leaders the first broad outlines of the Obama administration's approach to Central and Eastern Europe, telling them that, 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States now viewed the former Warsaw Pact nations as equal partners.

As much as the visit was intended to look forward, Mr. **BIDEN** did make a brief detour to lay a wreath at the Warsaw Ghetto Monument, a stone edifice erected in 1948 in the memory of the Jews who rose up against the Nazis and those who were marched off to death.

In a light drizzle under an overcast sky, Mr. **BIDEN** quietly greeted two local rabbis, one of whom stood with a cane, in a corner of the cobblestone square where the monument stands. In a dark suit and no overcoat, he then walked with a Polish military officer to the center of the square. Surrounded by 14 Polish soldiers in military-issue coats, most holding raised rifles, Mr. **BIDEN** and his escort stood frozen as a bugle sounded. A snare drum snapped off a slow march, and the two took deliberate steps toward the 20-foot monument, which depicts resistance fighters gripping hand grenades.

Polish soldiers placed a wreath of crimson roses at the base. A sash across the wreath read, "In memory of the heroes of

the Warsaw Ghetto uprising." The bugler played taps as Mr. **BIDEN** held his hand over his heart. As he walked quietly away, a group of 10 Jewish schoolgirls sang an Israeli folk song. The vice president flashed a quick smile and waved at the schoolchildren before returning to the motorcade.

CNN

Poland agrees to host part of new U.S. missile defense plan

(CNN) -- Poland has agreed to host elements of the new U.S. missile defense plan despite initial surprise over the Obama administration's recent decision to overhaul President Bush's strategy.

"We are ready to participate in the project," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who made the announcement Wednesday with Vice President Joe **BIDEN** in Warsaw.

BIDEN said the United States was appreciative when Poland was willing to host an element of the now-scrapped missile defense plan proposed by the Bush administration and is grateful for its continued support.

"We now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way with new technology and new information to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Later, **BIDEN** met with Polish President Lech Kaczynski, who said "there are some difficulties" still to be discussed regarding missile defense, but there is hope those issues "will be resolved."

Poland and the Czech Republic, both NATO members, agreed during the Bush administration to host major aspects of the missile defense system that would monitor and defend Europe from a possible missile attack by Iran.

The **Czech Republic** would have had a major radar assembly, and Poland would have had defensive interceptor missiles along its borders.

Russia was strongly against the plan from the start, claiming the missiles could be retrofitted with nuclear warheads, putting offensive weapons on its doorstep -- a claim the United States always denied.

In September, the **Obama** administration said it would scrap the Bush plan because of new intelligence showing Iran was not close to acquiring a long-range intercontinental ballistic missile, against which the missile defense system was designed to defend.

The administration laid out a new plan aimed at a more realistic threat of short- and medium-range missiles and would involve the use of ship-based interceptor missiles in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

There was much opposition to the decision in Poland, and a belief emerged that the new system was devised to curry favor with Russia. But top Pentagon officials have said the new missile system does not reflect a departure from previous goals and was not influenced by U.S.-Russian relations.

In announcing the revised strategy, the Obama administration pledged that Poland and the Czech Republic eventually could still be involved in the new plan. In this case, the United States has asked Poland to host the Standard Missile-3, or SM-3s.

"Our new phased adaptive approach to missile defense is designed to meet a growing threat not only to the United States, but first and foremost to Europe," **BIDEN** said. "It's going to meet it with proven technology that will cover more of Europe including Poland and will do it more efficiently than the previous system could have or did."

The men both praised U.S.-Polish relations.

"Our views are identical," Tusk said through a translator.

BIDEN pledged U.S. commitment to Poland's security and praised Polish troops that have been deployed in Iraq,

Afghanistan and the Balkans.

"Make no mistake about it, our commitment to Poland is unwavering," **BIDEN** said.

The U.S. vice president made other stops Wednesday in Poland. He visited the Warsaw Stock Exchange and the Warsaw Ghetto Monument, erected in memory of the Jews who rose up against the Nazis and those who were marched off to death.

Financial Times

Poland joins new US missile defence system

By Jan Cienski in Warsaw

Poland will participate in a new US missile defence programme, Donald Tusk, the prime minister, said on Wednesday after meeting Joe **BIDEN**, US vice-president.

"The project of a new configuration of missile defence is very interesting. We want to take part," Mr Tusk said.

The missile defence plan is a replacement for an interceptor system proposed by the Bush administration to defend the US against Iran but abandoned under Barack Obama, president.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defence plan and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way," Mr **BIDEN** said.

Warsaw was nonplussed last month when the US administration backed away from the missile defence programme put forward by George W. Bush. That plan had called for a missile interceptor base in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic.

Although the plan did not have much public support in either Poland or the Czech Republic, the governments of both countries saw the bases as a way of permanently stationing US troops on their territory, which would have given them additional security against a resurgent Russia.

Moscow had opposed the plan, even threatening to target the installations with nuclear missiles. When Mr Obama took power, his administration rethought the plan, upsetting Prague and Warsaw, which incurred the displeasure of other European Union countries in going forward with missile defence. Adding to Poland's irritation, the US decision to back away from the Bush programme came on September 17, the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Poland by the Soviet Union.

In Prague, Mirek Topolánek, the former Czech prime minister who negotiated the radar agreement with the US, said retreating from the missile defence shield, "raises questions of whether the US is not abandoning central and eastern Europe in exchange for better relations with Moscow".

Mr **BIDEN**, who is also visiting Romania and the Czech Republic, is trying to repair some of the damage caused by the defence shield decision. He told Mr Tusk that the US was still committed to Poland's security and stressed that the new anti-missile system would be better than the old one.

Getting Poland back on board the US programme after a series of often inadvertent US slights over the past few months will help defuse accusations in Washington that the Obama administration has abandoned its central European allies and will give the US more leeway in building better ties with Russia.

Wall Street Journal

BIDEN Late With Poland Visit

By Marcin Sobczyk

After a number of American decisions interpreted as slaps in Poland's face, the U.S. now sends its Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** to the biggest Central European country for a series of conciliatory smiles, handshakes and back patting. Of course, Polish politicians smile back, but the reality is Poland no longer has that warm feeling in its heart when it thinks "America."

Not a long time ago the **BIDEN** visit would be a big deal here – for decades, Poles were passionately, madly in love with the United States. America was the preferred country to immigrate to, the Promised Land with everything the best and the biggest, an idealized paradise.

Of course, Poland would like to be loved back, but despite its claim to being a power with a strong regional influence, it actually knows quite well that Central Europe and its individual countries are not important to the U.S. now that they're stable and in NATO and the European Union. Still, the country sent a number of signals that some cordiality from the U.S. would be welcome after Poland committed its troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, and agreed to host the U.S. missile shield knowing that Russia would be furious.

If the Obama administration wanted to mend fences with Russia, it could have considered sending a senior official to Poland first to make sure winning new friends would not come at the expense of older ties.

It could have sent someone more meaningful than a powerless former diplomat to the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. Russia's Putin and Germany's Merkel attended, so would it really hurt if **BIDEN** came to the Polish Baltic Coast on September 1?

That would have actually given the U.S. a very good chance to prepare Poland for its decision that came just two and a half weeks later to scrap the Bush-era missile shield. Poland saw that shield as an important project and the first major military installation from a NATO member state on its soil, so its scrapping really hurt.

Of course there are no obligations for the U.S. to have privileged relations with Poland, and even if they were declared, Poland would still make America's second-class ally. Clearly, the current U.S. administration cares less about Poland than before. But then it should not be surprised if the U.S. vice-presidential visit no longer sends shivers down the Polish spine.

AP

NATO to meet on Afghanistan, missile defense

By VANESSA GERA and SLOBODAN LEKIC

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — NATO defense ministers will meet here Thursday to discuss the war in Afghanistan and the growing support for President Barack Obama's plans for a new missile defense system in Europe.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the informal two-day meeting of defense ministers from the 28 NATO member countries will focus mainly on the 8-year-old war in Afghanistan. A runoff presidential election is set there for Nov. 7, and Obama is considering whether to send more troops to Afghanistan, where the Taliban insurgency has been making strides.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is expected to brief allies in Bratislava about progress in a review of recommendations by American Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan. McChrystal has called for more troops, and Fogh Rasmussen has said he hopes NATO members can endorse that recommendation.

But that could be difficult in the many European countries where the war is unpopular.

NATO currently has about 68,000 troops in Afghanistan, of which 32,000 are Americans. The U.S. military also has about 36,000 additional soldiers serving outside NATO under a separate command.

Fogh Rasmussen said that in light of Afghanistan's disputed election results — which led to the agreement to hold the runoff — it makes sense to delay any final decision about additional troops for now.

"I hope that we will have a clarification of the political situation in Afghanistan, because time is not on our side," he said Monday.

Two senior Western diplomats at NATO headquarters in Brussels told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the NATO ministers will discuss McChrystal's strategy review but make no new commitments on troops until Washington decides whether to follow McChrystal's recommendation for a troop increase. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity, in keeping with the regulations of their jobs.

Jaroslav Baska, the Slovak defense minister and the host of conference, said his country was waiting on McChrystal's assessment to see what kind of financial impact it will have and underlined that Slovakia was unlikely to increase its military spending.

"The Slovak military budget has been cut by 25 percent in the last year, and we would like to preserve that," he said.

The meeting in Bratislava comes as U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits Central Europe, with stops in Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. He is discussing the new U.S. missile defense plan and reassuring the strongly pro-American countries that Washington still supports them, even though it scrapped the Bush-era missile defense plan for sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Russia strongly opposed Bush's plan and has welcomed Obama's shift away from it, creating some nervousness in Warsaw and Prague.

Baska said he expects Gates to explain changes in the policy and how it would affect NATO.

"Any kind of defense that can secure Europe is welcome. If this becomes part of NATO's own missile defense then it is doubly welcome," he said.

On Wednesday, **BIDEN** secured Poland's willingness to participate in Obama's reconfigured missile defense system for Europe.

Fogh Rasmussen also has praised Obama's shift in thinking on missile defense and said he sees a greater role in it for NATO.

AP

'Possible' Obama Afghan announcement before Nov. 7

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday it's "certainly possible" that President Barack Obama could announce before a scheduled new election in Afghanistan whether to send more troops into the U.S. war there.

A runoff presidential election in Afghanistan is set for Nov. 7. Afghan President Hamid Karzai will face ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, his main challenger in that country's disputed Aug. 20 election.

Obama is mulling how to shift strategy in the 8-year-old Afghanistan war, including a possible U.S. troop increase, and the election mess in Afghanistan has played a big role in his intensive, weeks-long discussions with his war council.

The White House has been saying that Obama's decision was still weeks away. But White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters that it is possible the president could make an announcement before the new voting in Afghanistan.

"I don't know when the decision is going to be, so it's certainly possible," Gibbs said.

Obama also is leaving Nov. 11 for a long trip to Asia, and it has been expected he would make a decision before then.

In agreeing to a runoff, Karzai bowed to intense U.S. pressure. A U.N. investigation found evidence of election fraud in the first round of voting and invalidated nearly a third of the votes cast for Karzai.

Obama and other administration officials welcomed Karzai's decision as a sign of hope that a credible government could be established in Kabul. Gibbs called it a "very important first step in terms of that legitimacy" that the U.S. needs to continue to engage the fight in Afghanistan.

The president was scheduled to have his next Afghanistan meeting this week. But Gibbs said it has been put off until at least next week while key administration players — such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — are away on overseas trips.

AFP

BIDEN arrives in Romania on second leg of east European tour

BUCHAREST — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Romania Wednesday after a one-day visit to Warsaw where he secured Poland's approval for a new US anti-missile system.

BIDEN's plane touched down at Bucharest airport at 20H30 local time (17H30 GMT), according to an AFP photographer.

Bucharest is the second leg of a three-nation east European tour also including the Czech Republic, aimed at reaffirming the US partnership with the countries in the region.

The trip comes a month after a Bush-era missile shield was shelved, prompting Czech and Polish media to accuse president Barack Obama of "treachery" and selling out to Moscow.

US officials denied however **BIDEN** was on a mission to pacify US partners.

The Bush administration said the shield was designed to ward off potential attacks by so-called "rogue" states, namely Iran, but Russia slammed it as a threat to its national security.

But Obama said that after a rethink, and the realisation that Iran was developing its own missiles more slowly than anticipated, his administration was opting for a more flexible system.

In Bucharest, **BIDEN** is due on Thursday to meet Romanian president Traian Basescu and prime minister Emil Boc before delivering a key speech on relations between the US and central Europe.

Romania, which was not covered by the first antimissile defense system, welcomed the new plan.

"The new system protects the whole of the Romanian territory against possible missile attacks and this is very important," Bogdan Aurescu, a Romanian foreign ministry official, said.

BIDEN will leave Bucharest on Thursday evening heading for Prague.

AP

Obama hits campaign trail for NJ Gov Jon Corzine

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, doing his part to help keep a Democrat in charge of New Jersey, was heading there Wednesday to campaign for Gov. Jon Corzine.

Obama, who remains popular among New Jersey Democrats, was to speak at a rally at Fairleigh Dickinson University's campus in Hackensack. It will be his second campaign appearance in the Garden State for Corzine.

Recent polls show Corzine tied with Republican Chris Christie, who had enjoyed double-digit leads.

It's Obama's second political trip of the week as the 2009 campaign season draws to a close with elections Nov. 3, part of a presidential blitz to help raise money and rally loyalists for the off-year elections.

Democrats face the prospect of losing hard-fought gubernatorial races in Virginia and perhaps New Jersey, two contests that, to a degree, are shaping up as a test of Obama's political strength.

Obama took to the stump Monday night in New York City, helping raise as much as \$3 million for the Democratic Party along with an unspecified sum for Bill Owens, the Democrat in a special congressional election in upstate New York. John McHugh, the Republican who had held the seat, stepped down to become Obama's Army secretary.

On Friday, the president heads to New England to attend fundraisers for Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who is up for re-election in 2010, and Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd, also seeking another term next year.

Next Tuesday, Obama is scheduled to stump in Norfolk, Va., for Democrat Creigh Deeds, who is trailing in the race for Virginia governor.

Obama's appearance Wednesday in support of Corzine follows campaign visits to New Jersey this week by Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton.

Obama last stumped for Corzine in July at a rally in Holmdel, N.J.

Christian Science Monitor

Can Obama rescue Corzine in New Jersey governor's race?

By Ron Scherer

When President Obama travels to New Jersey Wednesday night, he might think he's running for office in the Garden State because Gov. Jon Corzine (D), in an effort to win votes, has erected billboards extolling "Obama Corzine."

But Mr. Obama's billboards and visits are integral to Corzine's strategy against Republican challenger and former US attorney Chris Christie.

"Corzine is trying to push the ties to himself and the president with Democratic voters," says Patrick Murray, director of polling at the Monmouth University Polling Institute in New Jersey. "This is to get those Democratic voters disenchanted with Corzine and upset with high property taxes to forget about that and vote one for the team, headed by Barack Obama."

Obama is not the only Democratic dignitary to hit the state for Corzine's campaign. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton have come visiting, too.

Polls show the strategy is having an impact, says Mr. Murray. In August, a Monmouth/Gannett poll found 17 percent of Democratic voters planned to vote for the Republican Mr. Christie. In the latest poll released Tuesday, that was down to 8 percent.

"More importantly, people who planned not to vote now plan to do so because it is being seen as a referendum on Obama who has an 87 percent approval rating in the state," says Murray.

Despite the outside help, the race is still expected to be close. Voters are seething over high property taxes, and have put their thumbs down on Corzine proposals to increase gasoline taxes and unload the Turnpike.

"The race for governor in New Jersey is very unclear, very murky," says Lee Miringoff of the Marist Institute of Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "The winner may not break 50 percent of the vote."

One big reason for the political fog in the Jersey race is independent candidate Chris Daggett, a former regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who has won the endorsement of the Star-Ledger, the state's largest paper. In the latest Monmouth/Gannett poll, Mr. Daggett attracts 14 percent of the vote, double his early October showing.

Some of Daggett's proposals – such as lowering property taxes by adding a sales tax – have gained traction with voters.

However, Murray says he thinks Daggett's campaign has probably peaked. "If he was able to build on the splash created by his property tax proposal, he would need to be over 20 percent of the vote at this point in time," he says. "And he does not have the money you need for the most expensive media markets to keep his name out there."

Candidates have to run ads on New York and Philadelphia stations.

Some of Daggett's votes may be the result of voter disgust over the brass-knuckle tactics. "[Corzine] has talked about Christie's ethics, his weight, and that he did not have a plan to balance the state's budget. By last week we had a tie race," says Cliff Zukin, a professor of public policy at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University.

Corzine, a former Wall Street investment banker who is bankrolling his own campaign, has been spending \$1 million a week on advertising since the primary, says Mr. Zukin.

Meanwhile, Christie has been hamstrung by only having \$19.5 million in public campaign financing and having to save funds for the last stretch of campaigning.

Obama's visit will be to Bergen County, across the Hudson River from New York. "Historically, a Republican must win the county to win the state," says Murray.

Whoever wins inherits an \$8 billion state budget deficit. "The only thing growing is public employment," says Mr. Zukin. "It makes you wonder why anyone wants this job."

Reuters

Obama wades into Democrats' tough governor races

By Patricia Zengerle

MCLEAN, Virginia (Reuters) - U.S. President Barack Obama threw himself into the role of "campaigner in chief" on Wednesday, making appeals for Democratic candidates in two state governor races that some see as a referendum on his performance in the White House.

Obama was to travel to New Jersey for a rally on behalf of Jon Corzine, who is locked in a tight race to remain governor of the heavily Democratic state.

The president also appeared in an ad released on Wednesday for Creigh Deeds, who trails by double digits in his bid to become the third consecutive Democratic governor of Virginia, a state that backed Obama in the 2008 presidential election but is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans.

Obama will travel to Norfolk, Virginia, next Tuesday for his second campaign rally for Deeds.

"I need every one of you to get fired up once again so that we can go toward the future, with Creigh Deeds leading the great Commonwealth of Virginia," Obama says in the ad, which uses a speech he made at his first appearance for Deeds.

Analysts said New Jersey and Virginia, the only governors' seats up for grabs this year, could influence Obama policy priorities like his efforts to reform the U.S. healthcare system and regulation of financial markets.

Defeat for Deeds and Corzine on November 3 could convince more moderate legislators that support for Democrats has weakened since Obama's election victory last November and keep them from backing efforts like the healthcare overhaul, which opponents have charged is too expensive.

NEW JERSEY RACE SEEN AS MORE LOCAL

The race in heavily Democratic New Jersey reflects more the struggles of an unpopular incumbent than the national political mood and will be decided on Corzine's handling of issues such as the state's high property taxes, analysts said.

Corzine, a former executive with investment firm Goldman Sachs, is locked in a tight re-election battle with Republican Christopher Christie, who has clung to a small poll lead despite appearances by Obama and Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

Former Democratic President Bill Clinton has also campaigned for both Corzine and Deeds.

The Virginia race is seen as more of a referendum on national issues such as the economy and healthcare.

Republican Bob McDonnell leads Deeds by 52 percent to 40 percent, according to a poll of 666 Virginia voters released on Wednesday by Public Policy Polling. McDonnell had led Deeds by just 48 percent to 43 percent in its previous survey, conducted three weeks earlier.

"Creigh Deeds is in a pretty dire position right now," said Dean Debnam, president of Public Policy Polling.

"Democrats aren't very enthusiastic about this election. He has to hope that visits on his behalf from folks like Barack Obama and Bill Clinton get a lot more of the party's base out to the polls."

A Quinnipiac University poll conducted on October 7-12 gave Christie 41 percent of the vote against 40 percent for Corzine and 14 percent for independent candidate Chris Daggett.

That compares with a four-point lead for Christie in the previous Quinnipiac poll and bigger advantages for Christie in other polls over recent months.

The race has been so negative that Corzine ran a TV ad this week that appeared to mock the portly Christie for his weight.

Democrats now hold 28 governorships in the 50 states, including New Jersey and Virginia, while Republicans have 22.

In Virginia, incumbent Democratic Governor Tim Kaine cannot run because of term limits. Kaine's predecessor and fellow Democrat Mark Warner is now one of the state's two U.S. senators.

New Jersey has not elected a Republican governor since Christine Todd Whitman in 1994.

New York Times

Fate of White House Counsel Is in Doubt After Bruising Fights

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — Every morning, Gregory B. Craig, the White House counsel, sits at the conference table of the Roosevelt Room with the rest of the president's senior staff.

His colleagues greet him, friendly as always. He updates the room on his issues and listens as they update him on theirs.

The one issue that does not come up? Mr. Craig himself.

As President Obama's top lawyer, Mr. Craig has been at the center of thorny decisions on closing the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and revising interrogation and detention policies, problems that have bedeviled the new administration and generated fierce battles inside and outside the White House. And for months now, he has endured a spate of speculation in print and around the White House about whether he is on the way out.

Mr. Craig said he had no plans to leave, and White House officials said the president still had faith in him. But colleagues and Democrats close to the White House said they expected him to move on around the end of the year, and have been talking about possible replacements. Whether Mr. Craig leaves or not, the discussion of his fate has grown so persistent and the situation so awkward that one supporter calls it "the Greg Craig watch."

It is a classic and not particularly savory Washington story. When an administration stumbles, whispers begin and fingers point in search of someone to blame. At a certain point, assumptions can become self-fulfilling, and an official in the cross hairs finds it harder to do the job. In Mr. Craig's case, friends said he was unfairly being made a scapegoat for decisions supported across the administration.

"Everybody who's here in Washington has seen this play before, when internal second-guessing and rivalries burst out into public," said Elisa Massimino, executive director of Human Rights First, an advocacy group that has worked with Mr. Craig to reverse President George W. Bush's policies.

"What he did was jump in with both feet," Ms. Massimino added. "Had he not done that, we would not be nearly so close as we are to finally turning this problem around."

Mr. Craig, a former adviser to Senator Edward M. Kennedy and President Bill Clinton, is a savvy capital veteran. He declined to comment on his plans, but told the National Law Journal that he was staying. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., who called Mr. Craig "extremely effective," said he had maintained equanimity despite the anonymous sniping.

"Having been in Washington as long as he has been, there's a familiarity to this, an inoculation against it," Mr. Holder said in an interview. "So that helps, I'm sure, in dealing with this situation."

Mr. Craig was handed one of the most difficult portfolios at the White House. He drafted executive orders banning

torture and ordering Guantánamo closed within a year. Over the objections of the Central Intelligence Agency, he recommended the release of Justice Department memos describing harsh interrogations. And he was at the center of the White House decision to reverse itself and withhold photographs of detainee abuse.

Mr. Craig took flak for those decisions, criticized for not doing more to build consensus within the administration or prepare the political ground in Congress. And the prospect of closing Guantánamo by the one-year deadline he helped set has proved more difficult than anticipated and now appears unlikely to be met.

At moments, it has looked as if Mr. Craig's authority has been trimmed back. Rahm Emanuel, the White House chief of staff, assigned Pete Rouse, a senior adviser with deep ties to Capitol Hill, to oversee Guantánamo issues.

Similarly, after Mr. Craig started the search that produced the Supreme Court nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Mr. Emanuel assigned the confirmation fight to Ronald A. Klain and Cynthia Hogan, aides to Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. with long experience handling judicial appointments.

In both instances, officials said that Mr. Craig remained involved but that it made sense to tap people with political backgrounds to manage political issues, particularly since Mr. Craig had so many other duties, like scrutinizing legislation, vetting appointees and selecting judges. But articles in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and Politico questioned Mr. Craig's job security, citing anonymous critics.

In an interview, Mr. Emanuel said Mr. Craig should not be faulted, especially on Guantánamo. "The president believes he has done a very good job and continues to do a very good job," Mr. Emanuel said. "The notion that you're going to blame him is ridiculous. He didn't create Guantánamo. He is trying to work within the system to meet the president's goal."

Many in the White House are angry at the whispering campaign. Mr. Craig, 64, is well liked, a veteran Washington lawyer with an easy smile, a friendly manner and thick wavy hair that makes him look like a member of the Kennedy family he once served.

He studied law at Yale with Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton and joined the Clinton White House in 1998 to fight impeachment. Longtime aides resented the newcomer. When the announcement of his appointment described Mr. Craig as the "quarterback" of the impeachment defense, some Clinton aides, including Mr. Emanuel, derisively referred to him as "QB." (All these years later, Mr. Emanuel said he liked and respected Mr. Craig.)

Mr. Craig later broke with the Clintons to become one of Mr. Obama's earliest backers for president. He told Newsweek he was "blown away" by Mr. Obama's books; he was such an enthusiast that Mr. Obama referred to him as one of the "Kool-Aid kids." After the election, Mr. Obama made him White House counsel, overruling advisers who thought he was not the best fit or who favored other candidates.

Mr. Craig was hardly the only adviser advocating a one-year deadline to close Guantánamo; Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, among others, also argued for it. "That's how you force the action and get things done, and the truth is we're making good progress on it," said David Axelrod, Mr. Obama's senior adviser. "But the thing is, it was a legal and policy thicket."

Tom Malinowski, Washington director of Human Rights Watch, said that while the White House made mistakes in how it handled the closing of Guantánamo, fueling an uproar in Congress, it would be unfair to assign those mistakes to Mr. Craig. "To make Greg the fall guy, if that indeed is what they're doing, is profoundly disingenuous," Mr. Malinowski said.

Whatever the motivation, the talk does its damage.

"In the White House, in particular, power is the perception of power," said Bradford A. Berenson, a former associate White House counsel under Mr. Bush. "And if people perceive you to be under attack and on the way out, it limits your effectiveness."

Afternoon VPOTUS Mentions
October 21, 2009

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New York Times

[Poland Agrees to Accept U.S. Missile Interceptors](#)

By **PETER BAKER**

WARSAW — Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. moved to repair a rift with Eastern Europe on Wednesday by announcing an agreement to station interceptors from President Obama's reformulated missile defense system on the territory of this NATO ally.

Mr. Obama angered Poland last month by canceling former President George W. Bush's anti-missile shield, including plans to deploy 10 ground-based interceptors here. Although Mr. Obama denied it, many in Eastern Europe perceived the move as a sell-out to Russia, which adamantly opposed the Bush system.

Reuters

[Poland ready to take part in Obama missile defence](#)

By **Gareth Jones**

WARSAW, Oct 21 (Reuters) - Poland stands ready to take part in the revamped missile defence system unveiled by Washington last month, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said after meeting U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday.

Poland and the Czech Republic are still smarting from President Barack Obama's decision to scrap Bush-era plans under which they would have hosted elements of an ambitious missile shield to protect against possible long-range attack from Iran.

AP

[Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal](#)

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's prime minister said Wednesday that his country is ready to participate in President Barack Obama's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

Speaking alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Donald Tusk welcomed the Obama administration's proposal for a missile shield that would replace a bulkier version previously planned for Poland.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk told reporters.

The Hill

[BIDEN, Polish PM affirm plans for new missile system in Europe](#)

By **Michael O'Brien**

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk affirmed plans to establish a new U.S. missile defense system in Poland.

During an appearance in the Polish capital of Warsaw on Wednesday morning, the two leaders announced a new program to be hosted in Poland to replace the previous missile defense program cancelled by President Barack Obama earlier this year.

AFP

[BIDEN denies Russia 'reset' will hit east European allies](#)

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday denied Washington was side-lining its east European allies, ahead of talks with Polish leaders amid concerns in the region over the US "reset" of ties with Moscow.

"We have said clearly that our steps toward improving relations with Russia will not come at the expense of central Europe," **BIDEN** told the Polish daily Rzeczpospolita as he kicked off a trip to Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania.

AFP

[BIDEN honours memory of 1943 Warsaw ghetto fighters](#)

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Wednesday paid tribute to Jewish fighters who battled Nazi Germany in the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising, which has come to symbolise courage against overwhelming odds.

Flanked by a Polish army honour guard, **BIDEN** solemnly laid a wreath at the foot of the imposing monument unveiled in 1948 near the site of the fighters' last stand in their ill-fated revolt.

AP

[Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal](#)

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — Standing alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Poland's prime minister said Wednesday his country was ready to participate in the Obama administration's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

President Barack Obama removed a major irritant in relations with Russia last month by scrapping U.S. plans to place 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles from "rouge" states such as Iran. The Bush-era plan had enraged Moscow.

ABC News

[In Warsaw, Vice President BIDEN Welcomes Poland's Cooperation on Missile Defense System](#)

By Karen Travers

In Warsaw today, Vice President **BIDEN** welcomed the announcement from Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk that his country would participate in a revamped U.S. missile defense system in eastern Europe.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan," the vice president said.

Wall Street Journal

[After Antimissile Mess, BIDEN Tries Charm Offensive with Poland](#)

By Peter Spiegel

When President Barack Obama announced he was scrapping Bush administration plans to build a long-range missile defense system in Eastern Europe, there was no country more angry about the move than Poland, which was to have hosted 10 interceptor missiles as part of the ground-based system...

... But the frosty relationship between Warsaw and Washington that developed in the wake of the decision may be thawing.

At a news conference with Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk — who had reportedly refused to take a late-night phone call from Obama when he rang to break the news last month — said his country was ready to participate in a new regional antimissile system proposed by the U.S.

Bloomberg

[BIDEN Wins Poland's Acceptance of Anti-Missile Plan](#)

By Katya Andrusz and Nathaniel Espino

Oct. 21 (Bloomberg) -- U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** secured Poland's commitment to assist with a proposed missile- defense system and invited one of America's "closest allies" to join efforts to improve relations with Russia.

Poland, which was disappointed by the U.S. announcement on Sept. 17 to scrap a plan to locate a fixed-base anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic that had aroused objections from Russia, enjoys an "absolute" U.S. commitment to its defense, **BIDEN** said at a news conference in Warsaw today, lauding Polish soldiers' "great sacrifices" in Afghanistan.

AP

[US VP BIDEN woos Poland after missile program cut](#)

By RYAN LUCAS and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** sought reconciliation with America's staunch allies in eastern Europe Wednesday, starting with Poland, which eagerly signed on to a revamped U.S. missile shield.

A month after the Obama administration stung Poland by scrapping a Bush-era plan that would have placed a major anti-missile base in the country, the Polish prime minister and president gave their backing to the scaled-down alternative. That was an achievement for **BIDEN** who will take his message to Romania and the Czech Republic.

Washington Times

[BIDEN, Polish leaders agree on revised missile plan](#)

Matthew Mosk

WARSAW -- The Obama administration reached a new agreement Wednesday with top Polish government officials to place a new generation of missile interceptors on Polish soil, a surprising turnabout from just a few weeks earlier when it appeared the United States was ready to abandon its missile defense program in Eastern Europe.

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk emerged from a lengthy private discussion to announce that Poland's participation in the missile defense system was, essentially, back on -- though in a new format that involves delivering a smaller number of defensive weapons in 2018.

CNN

[Poland agrees to host part of new U.S. missile defense plan](#)

(CNN) -- Poland has agreed to host elements of the new U.S. missile defense plan despite initial surprise over the Obama administration's recent decision to overhaul President Bush's strategy.

"We are ready to participate in the project," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who made the announcement Wednesday with Vice President Joe **BIDEN** in Warsaw.

BIDEN said the United States was appreciative when Poland was willing to host an element of the now-scraped missile defense plan proposed by the Bush administration and is grateful for its continued support.

Financial Times

[Poland joins new US missile defence system](#)

By Jan Cienski in Warsaw

Poland will participate in a new US missile defence programme, Donald Tusk, the prime minister, said on Wednesday after meeting Joe **BIDEN**, US vice-president.

"The project of a new configuration of missile defence is very interesting. We want to take part," Mr Tusk said.

The missile defence plan is a replacement for an interceptor system proposed by the Bush administration to defend the US against Iran but abandoned under Barack Obama, president.

Wall Street Journal

[BIDEN Late With Poland Visit](#)

By Marcin Sobczyk

After a number of American decisions interpreted as slaps in Poland's face, the U.S. now sends its Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** to the biggest Central European country for a series of conciliatory smiles, handshakes and back patting. Of course, Polish politicians smile back, but the reality is Poland no longer has that warm feeling in its heart when it thinks "America."

Not a long time ago the **BIDEN** visit would be a big deal here – for decades, Poles were passionately, madly in love with the United States. America was the preferred country to immigrate to, the Promised Land with everything the best and the biggest, an idealized paradise.

AP

[NATO to meet on Afghanistan, missile defense](#)

By VANESSA GERA and SLOBODAN LEKIC

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — NATO defense ministers will meet here Thursday to discuss the war in Afghanistan and the growing support for President Barack Obama's plans for a new missile defense system in Europe...

... The meeting in Bratislava comes as U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits Central Europe, with stops in Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. He is discussing the new U.S. missile defense plan and reassuring the strongly pro-American countries that Washington still supports them, even though it scrapped the Bush-era missile defense plan for sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Russia strongly opposed Bush's plan and has welcomed Obama's shift away from it, creating some nervousness in Warsaw and Prague.

AP

['Possible' Obama Afghan announcement before Nov. 7](#)

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday it's "certainly possible" that President Barack Obama could announce before a scheduled new election in Afghanistan whether to send more troops into the U.S. war there...

... The president was scheduled to have his next Afghanistan meeting this week. But Gibbs said it has been put off until at least next week while key administration players — such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — are away on overseas trips.

AFP

[BIDEN arrives in Romania on second leg of east European tour](#)

BUCHAREST — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Romania Wednesday after a one-day visit to Warsaw where he secured Poland's approval for a new US anti-missile system.

BIDEN's plane touched down at Bucharest airport at 20H30 local time (17H30 GMT), according to an AFP photographer.

Bucharest is the second leg of a three-nation east European tour also including the Czech Republic, aimed at reaffirming the US partnership with the countries in the region.

AP

[Obama hits campaign trail for NJ Gov Jon Corzine](#)

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, doing his part to help keep a Democrat in charge of New Jersey, was heading there Wednesday to campaign for Gov. Jon Corzine...

...Obama's appearance Wednesday in support of Corzine follows campaign visits to New Jersey this week by Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton.

Christian Science Monitor

[Can Obama rescue Corzine in New Jersey governor's race?](#)

By Ron Scherer

When President Obama travels to New Jersey Wednesday night, he might think he's running for office in the Garden State because Gov. Jon Corzine (D), in an effort to win votes, has erected billboards extolling "Obama Corzine." ...

... Obama is not the only Democratic dignitary to hit the state for Corzine's campaign. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton have come visiting, too.

Reuters

[Obama wades into Democrats' tough governor races](#)

By Patricia Zengerle

MCLEAN, Virginia (Reuters) - U.S. President Barack Obama threw himself into the role of "campaigner in chief" on Wednesday, making appeals for Democratic candidates in two state governor races that some see as a referendum on his performance in the White House...

... Corzine, a former executive with investment firm Goldman Sachs, is locked in a tight re-election battle with Republican Christopher Christie, who has clung to a small poll lead despite appearances by Obama and Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

New York Times

[Fate of White House Counsel Is in Doubt After Bruising Fights](#)

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — Every morning, Gregory B. Craig, the White House counsel, sits at the conference table of the Roosevelt Room with the rest of the president's senior staff.

His colleagues greet him, friendly as always. He updates the room on his issues and listens as they update him on theirs.

The one issue that does not come up? Mr. Craig himself...

... Similarly, after Mr. Craig started the search that produced the Supreme Court nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Mr. Emanuel assigned the confirmation fight to Ronald A. Klain and Cynthia Hogan, aides to Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. with long experience handling judicial appointments.

FULL TEXT:

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New York Times

Poland Agrees to Accept U.S. Missile Interceptors

By PETER BAKER

WARSAW — Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. moved to repair a rift with Eastern Europe on Wednesday by announcing an agreement to station interceptors from President Obama's reformulated missile defense system on the territory of this NATO ally.

Mr. Obama angered Poland last month by canceling former President George W. Bush's anti-missile shield, including plans to deploy 10 ground-based interceptors here. Although Mr. Obama denied it, many in Eastern Europe perceived the move as a sell-out to Russia, which adamantly opposed the Bush system.

The deal to base here some of the smaller, mobile SM-3 interceptors at the heart of Mr. Obama's new missile defense plan may help reassure the region that the United States remains committed to its security. To further reinforce the point, Mr. **BIDEN** plans to fly later in the week to the Czech Republic, which was also part of the Bush system and riled by its cancellation, to discuss basing elements of the Obama missile shield there.

The new missile defense system "is a very interesting concept and a very much needed one and we are ready to participate in this project on the necessary scale," Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland said after meeting with Mr. **BIDEN** here.

The vice president hailed the decision as evidence that the administration's new missile plan was superior to Mr. Bush's. "Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and it's better security for Poland, not only better security for the United States of America," Mr. **BIDEN** said.

In deference to Polish sensitivities, Mr. **BIDEN** emphasized repeatedly America's friendship with Poland and its obligation under Article 5 of the NATO treaty to come to Poland's defense if it were ever attacked. "Make no mistake, our commitment to Poland is unwavering," Mr. **BIDEN** said.

Mr. Obama scrapped the Bush anti-missile shield last month, arguing that it was designed to meet the wrong threat. While Mr. Bush's system was intended to counter intercontinental ballistic missiles that Iran could eventually develop, Mr. Obama's plan focuses more on short- and medium-range missiles that Iran already has and is improving. Even as he scratched deployment of Mr. Bush's system, Mr. Obama did not completely abandon it, agreeing to continue research and development in case Iran does make a breakthrough on intercontinental missiles down the road.

The new system envisions stationing existing SM-3 interceptors on Aegis-equipped ships in the Mediterranean Sea and elsewhere by 2011, and on land in Eastern Europe by 2015. A more advanced system would be deployed by 2018 and another generation, theoretically capable of shooting down intercontinental missiles, by 2020.

The SM-3 interceptors that would be based in Poland would be deployed in 2018, according to a National Security Council official traveling with Mr. **BIDEN**, roughly the same timeframe the Bush interceptors would have been stationed here. The official said it was too early to determine how many of the SM-3 interceptors would be deployed here. The Polish parliament still needs to ratify the plan.

Mr. Obama insisted that his decision to ditch Mr. Bush's plan was driven not by Russian objections but by updated assessments of the Iranian threat and the availability of better technology to counter it. But here in a region fraught with a difficult history with Moscow, it was seen as a betrayal of some of America's strongest allies in Europe in the interest of Mr. Obama's attempt to "reset" relations with Russia.

The anger was exacerbated by what White House officials privately acknowledge was a botched roll-out of the new plan. Mr. Obama's decision to shelve the Bush system leaked, but initial news reports said little if anything about his plan to build a substitute system, fueling the perception that he had abandoned missile defense altogether in a concession to Russia. Worse still in terms of relations with Eastern Europe, the news emerged on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland at the start of World War II.

"Could we have handled it better, differently? You can always handle things better," said Antony J. Blinken, Mr. **BIDEN**'s national security adviser. "What really created an initial problem were headlines that fundamentally misunderstood, or misrepresented, what we were doing."

But he added, "the more allies have been focused on the details and the specifics, the stronger the support has been."

The Obama administration has flooded the region with visits from civilian and military officials to explain those details and assuage fears. Mr. **BIDEN** is the highest ranking official to come and has credibility in the region because of his tough views of Russia during its war with neighboring Georgia last year.

Mr. **BIDEN** began his visit here with a wreath laying ceremony at the Warsaw Ghetto Monument commemorating the failed Jewish uprising against Nazi occupiers in 1943. He plans to fly later in the day to Bucharest, Romania, where his longtime adviser, Mark Gitenstein, is now ambassador, and then after a day of talks will move on to Prague before returning to Washington on Friday night.

Reuters

Poland ready to take part in Obama missile defence

By Gareth Jones

WARSAW, Oct 21 (Reuters) - Poland stands ready to take part in the revamped missile defence system unveiled by Washington last month, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said after meeting U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday.

Poland and the Czech Republic are still smarting from President Barack Obama's decision to scrap Bush-era plans under which they would have hosted elements of an ambitious missile shield to protect against possible long-range attack from Iran.

Russia strongly opposed the plans, fearing they would neutralise its own nuclear arsenal.

"Poland finds the new anti-missile project as very interesting and important and, in the appropriate scale, we are ready to participate," Tusk told a joint news conference.

BIDEN, on the first leg of his European visit, stressed that new system would be more effective and would cover a much greater part of European territory than the previous Bush plan.

"I welcome the prime minister's declaration that Poland stands ready to host elements of missile defence," he said.

Obama's new plan envisages the deployment first of sea-based interceptors and then of land-based systems. Under this arrangement, Poland could host SM-3 interceptors targeting short and medium-range missiles.

Raising concerns in Poland and other former Soviet satellites, Obama has made "resetting" relations with Russia a major foreign policy objective as he needs Moscow's cooperation on Iran, Afghanistan and other strategic issues.

Russia has welcomed his decision to shelve the Bush missile shield plan, which Moscow had regarded as a direct threat to its own security. It is awaiting more details on the new missile defence plans but says they are less worrisome.

AP

Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's prime minister said Wednesday that his country is ready to participate in President Barack Obama's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

Speaking alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Donald Tusk welcomed the Obama administration's proposal for a missile shield that would replace a bulkier version previously planned for Poland.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk told reporters.

The Obama administration scrapped a Bush-era plan that would have put 10 missile interceptors in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles launched from so-called "rogue" states such as Iran.

Instead, the Obama administration has proposed a reconfigured system that envisions putting the U.S. Navy's Standard Missile-3 on ships and land-based versions in Europe. The Pentagon says the anti-ballistic missile is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Iran's anticipated arsenal.

BIDEN, who was on the first stop of a three-nation trip to eastern Europe aimed at reassuring Washington's allies in the region of its support, praised Warsaw for its readiness to accept the revamped plan.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Sketching out the Obama administration's vision for the missile defense, **BIDEN** said the new approach would meet "a growing threat" to the U.S. and Europe.

"It's going to meet it with proven technology that will cover more of Europe, including Poland, and will do it more efficiently than the previous system could have or did," he said.

"Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and is better security for Poland."

The Hill

BIDEN, Polish PM affirm plans for new missile system in Europe

By Michael O'Brien

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk affirmed plans to establish a new U.S. missile defense system in Poland.

During an appearance in the Polish capital of Warsaw on Wednesday morning, the two leaders announced a new program to be hosted in Poland to replace the previous missile defense program cancelled by President Barack Obama earlier this year.

The new system would place new missiles ("SM3s") in Poland, which, according to a pool report, **BIDEN** described as more modern and effective in protecting Europe. The previous system had called for missile interceptors in Poland, complemented by a radar base in the Czech Republic.

"We are ready to participate in this project," Tusk said in a joint appearance with **BIDEN**, adding that the new program "is considered by Poland to be a very interesting idea."

"Make no mistake about it, our commitment to Poland is unwavering," **BIDEN** said in brief remarks. "We are thankful, we are thankful, for your soldiers standing alongside ours in Afghanistan."

AFP

BIDEN denies Russia 'reset' will hit east European allies

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Wednesday denied Washington was side-lining its east European allies, ahead of talks with Polish leaders amid concerns in the region over the US "reset" of ties with Moscow.

"We have said clearly that our steps toward improving relations with Russia will not come at the expense of central Europe," **BIDEN** told the Polish daily Rzeczpospolita as he kicked off a trip to Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania.

The interview was published in Polish, and an English-language transcript of **BIDEN**'s original remarks was not immediately available from the newspaper or the US embassy in Warsaw.

BIDEN, who arrived in Warsaw late Tuesday, met with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and was due to hold talks with President Lech Kaczynski.

His trip comes just a month after the administration of US President Barack Obama decided to shelve a plan, fiercely opposed by Russia, to set up an anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The plan -- which was pushed by Obama's predecessor George W. Bush in what Washington said was a drive to ward off Iranian threats -- included the deployment by 2013 of missile interceptors in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic.

Warsaw and Prague questioned Washington's decision, after sticking their necks out for the United States and facing the wrath of their Soviet-era master Moscow, which threatened to train its nuclear warheads on their territory in response.

Obama said that after a rethink, and the realisation that Iran was developing its own missiles more slowly than anticipated, his administration was opting for a more flexible system. That is expected to include ship-based missile interceptors.

Plans for a US military presence in Poland and the Czech Republic -- which joined NATO in 1999 -- are not off the table, however.

After talks with Polish officials last week in Warsaw a senior US negotiator said the United States will deploy ground-to-air Patriot missiles in Poland in 2010.

In September, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said that aside from the Patriots, Washington aims to deploy a new SM-3 anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic in 2015.

Kaczynski on Tuesday said that plan was "not bad" and that he would ask **BIDEN** about a timeframe.

BIDEN is due to spend Thursday in Romania before visiting the Czech Republic on Friday.

AFP

BIDEN honours memory of 1943 Warsaw ghetto fighters

WARSAW — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Wednesday paid tribute to Jewish fighters who battled Nazi Germany in the 1943 Warsaw ghetto uprising, which has come to symbolise courage against overwhelming odds.

Flanked by a Polish army honour guard, **BIDEN** solemnly laid a wreath at the foot of the imposing monument unveiled in 1948 near the site of the fighters' last stand in their ill-fated revolt.

The wreath of red, white and blue flowers -- the colours of the US flag -- bore a ribbon reading "In Memory of the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising".

BIDEN then stood with his right hand over his heart as a bugler played a salute, before a choir of children sang a Jewish song and he spoke with dignitaries including Poland's chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich.

After invading Poland in 1939, Nazi Germany isolated Polish Jews inside ghettos across the country, before beginning their systematic campaign of mass murder in the Holocaust.

At its height, around 450,000 people were crammed into the walled Warsaw ghetto, including Jews brought from other European nations. About 100,000 died inside from starvation and disease. Most of the rest were sent to the Treblinka death camp in northeast Poland in mass deportations in 1942.

A handful of Jewish paramilitary groups, mostly made up of people in their teens and twenties, were formed in the Warsaw ghetto.

The poorly armed fighters first clashed with Nazi troops on January 18-22, 1943, managing to hinder the deportations.

On April 19, the Nazis began liquidating the ghetto, where just 60,000 people remained, and the fighters rose up again.

"We knew perfectly well that there was no way we could win. It was a symbol of the fight for freedom. A symbol of standing up to Nazism, and of not giving in," the uprising's last commander, Marek Edelman, told AFP in a 2008 interview. Edelman died in Warsaw on October 2 aged 90.

The insurrection lasted three weeks, until the Nazis razed the ghetto, killing and deporting the vast majority of those who had been unable to flee.

BIDEN arrived in Poland late Tuesday, kicking off a tour of eastern Europe that will also see him visit Romania and the Czech Republic.

AP

Poland ready to accept new US missile defense deal

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — Standing alongside U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Poland's prime minister said Wednesday his country was ready to participate in the Obama administration's revamped plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Europe.

President Barack Obama removed a major irritant in relations with Russia last month by scrapping U.S. plans to place 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles from "rouge" states such as Iran. The Bush-era plan had enraged Moscow.

The Kremlin has praised Obama for the decision, but Russian officials also have said they want to know more about what missile defense system the U.S. will use instead.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk welcomed the U.S. proposal for a missile shield that would replace a bulkier version previously planned for Poland.

"I want to stress that Poland views ... the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk said at a news conference with **BIDEN**.

BIDEN, on the first stop of a three-nation trip aimed at reassuring Washington's allies in the region of its support, praised Warsaw for its readiness to accept the revamped plan. His trip was the highest-level visit yet by the Obama administration to Poland.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

BIDEN said the new approach would meet "a growing threat" to the U.S. and Europe.

"It's going to meet it with proven technology that will cover more of Europe, including Poland, and will do it more efficiently than the previous system," he said. "Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO and is better security for Poland."

BIDEN was also meeting with Polish President Lech Kaczynski and was slated to meet with Polish soldiers who have served in NATO's mission in Afghanistan. He travels next to Romania and then to the Czech Republic on Friday.

Under Obama's new missile defense plan, U.S. Navy ships equipped with anti-missile weapons — such as the Navy's Standard Missile-3 — would form a front line of defense in the eastern Mediterranean. Those would be combined with land-based anti-missile systems to be placed on shore in Europe.

The proposal calls for a focus on short and medium-range interceptors to better counter expected threats from Iran. The Pentagon says the SM-3 anti-ballistic missile is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Tehran's anticipated arsenal.

Obama has said the old blueprint was scrapped largely because the U.S. has concluded that Iran is less focused on developing the kind of long-range missiles for which the Bush-era system was originally developed.

All three of the ex-communist countries on **BIDEN's** trip have enjoyed cozy ties with the U.S. since Soviet-backed regimes fell 20 years ago. They have thrown their support behind Washington in its fight against terrorism, contributing troops to the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

Poland and Romania also face allegations of having hosted secret CIA prisons. Both countries deny the accusations.

Recently, regional leaders voiced nervousness that the Obama administration was ignoring the area's interests amid its push to reset relations with Russia — a power still deeply feared in eastern Europe.

BIDEN aims to reassure the region during his trip that Washington will not strike any deals with Russia over the heads of its allies.

ABC News

In Warsaw, Vice President BIDEN Welcomes Poland's Cooperation on Missile Defense System

By Karen Travers

In Warsaw today, Vice President **BIDEN** welcomed the announcement from Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk that his country would participate in a revamped U.S. missile defense system in eastern Europe.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan," the vice president said.

"Poland considers the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate level to participate," Tusk said at the news conference with **BIDEN**.

Poland was the first stop on **BIDEN**'s three day trip to Eastern Europe that appeared to be aimed at smoothing over relations with U.S. allies there after the Obama administration's announced it would abandon existing plans for a missile defense system based in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The White House announced last month that it was switching gears and instead of the land-based system developed by the Bush administration, would pursue a sea-based system to target short and medium range missiles aimed at Europe.

The announcement caught the central European allies off guard and was met with great concern by the leaders of Poland and the Czech Republic.

BIDEN's trip is the first visit by a high-level U.S. official to the region since the announcement and today he touted the revamped system as the best way "to defend against the emerging ballistic missile threats."

"Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO, and is better security for Poland, and ultimately better security for the United States of America," the vice president said.

BIDEN thanked Tusk and Polish President Lech Kaczynski for the service Polish troops have given in Afghanistan.

"They are genuine warriors, and they are making great sacrifices," he said. "We are thankful for your soldiers standing alongside of ours in Afghanistan, also in Iraq and the Balkans."

BIDEN later met with Polish veterans who have served in Afghanistan.

BIDEN's next stop is Romania on Thursday and he finishes his trip in the Czech Republic on Friday.

Wall Street Journal

After Antimissile Mess, BIDEN Tries Charm Offensive with Poland

By Peter Spiegel

When President Barack Obama announced he was scrapping Bush administration plans to build a long-range missile defense system in Eastern Europe, there was no country more angry about the move than Poland, which was to have hosted 10 interceptor missiles as part of the ground-based system.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, for instance, went on local radio to say he believed the decision would provide a “shock” to the Polish foreign policy establishment that would force it to look to Europe for security assurances rather than relying on “the dream of basing everything on a bilateral alliance with the United States.”

But the frosty relationship between Warsaw and Washington that developed in the wake of the decision may be thawing.

At a news conference with Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk – who had reportedly refused to take a late-night phone call from Obama when he rang to break the news last month – said his country was ready to participate in a new regional antimissile system proposed by the U.S.

Tusk’s backing was somewhat lukewarm; he described the new system as “very interesting, necessary” and that Poland was ready to participate “at the appropriate scale.” But U.S. officials have hinted that Poland could host a vast array of U.S.-built Standard Missile-3s, the mid-range interceptor that the new system will be built around.

BIDEN, who will also visit the Czech Republic (which was to host a large radar under the Bush-era system) as part of his Eastern Europe charm offensive, said he appreciated Tusk’s support and insisted that Obama’s plan will provide more security for Europe, since it is aimed at an existing threat – short and medium-range missiles from Iran – and can be deployed more quickly.

“We now appreciate that Poland’s government agrees with us that there is now a better way, a better way – with new technology and new information – to defend against the emerging ballistic missile threats,” **BIDEN** said.

Bloomberg

BIDEN Wins Poland's Acceptance of Anti-Missile Plan

By Katya Andrusz and Nathaniel Espino

Oct. 21 (Bloomberg) -- U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** secured Poland's commitment to assist with a proposed missile- defense system and invited one of America's "closest allies" to join efforts to improve relations with Russia.

Poland, which was disappointed by the U.S. announcement on Sept. 17 to scrap a plan to locate a fixed-base anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic that had aroused objections from Russia, enjoys an "absolute" U.S. commitment to its defense, **BIDEN** said at a news conference in Warsaw today, lauding Polish soldiers' "great sacrifices" in Afghanistan.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk told reporters his country's views on security and other issues were virtually "identical" with those of the U.S, including a revamped plan to use SM-3 1A missiles with sea-based or mobile platforms to defend against long-range missiles from states including Iran.

"Poland considers the whole SM-3 missile-defense project very interesting and we're ready to participate, on the appropriate scale," Tusk said.

President Barack Obama said on Sept. 17 he was scrapping plans to base a system in Poland and the Czech Republic that would defend against long-range missiles from states including Iran. He said the U.S. would develop a new system comprised of SM-3 1A missiles aimed at reducing the threat from short- and medium- range missiles.

Additional Safeguard

The announcement, which came on the 70th anniversary of the Soviet Union's invasion of Poland at the start of World War II, bruised sensitivities in Warsaw.

"We want to have good relations with Russia, but we have to take care of our security as well," Pawel Wypych, an aide to President Lech Kaczynski, said in an interview. "Being members of the European Union and of NATO gives us some security guarantees, but we'd like to have the additional safeguard of having a broader defense system on Polish territory."

Polish leaders want the U.S. to follow through on plans to install the missiles and base American soldiers on Polish soil, even in the face of objections from Russia, he said.

BIDEN said he told Tusk and Kaczynski in separate meetings today that the U.S. had ditched plans for fixed-based missiles because they were technologically outdated, not due to Russian pressure. "Simply put, our missile plan is better security for NATO, and is better security for Poland," **BIDEN** said after meeting Tusk.

'Filled With Optimism'

Kaczynski, who asked for details on the new system, told a news briefing at the presidential palace in Warsaw that he is "filled with optimism" on U.S.-Polish relations after meeting **BIDEN** today. The Vice President said the discussions with Kaczynski had touched on ways to improve relations with Russia, adding that he hoped Poland would take part in a broader effort encompassing the entire NATO alliance.

After meeting Kaczynski and with Polish veterans of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, **BIDEN** will fly to Bucharest and Prague.

Eugeniusz Smolar, a foreign-affairs specialist at the Center for International Relations, said Obama's change in plans has made missile defense less controversial in the U.S.

"The missile shield was always a Republican concept, but now, with Obama's amendments to the project, it's become bipartisan for the first time," Smolar said by telephone from Warsaw. "And the new version is more NATO-oriented, too."

Troops Stationed

About 100 U.S. troops would be stationed in Poland to maintain the missiles, each costing the U.S. around \$10 million, Polish daily Dziennik Gazeta Prawna reported earlier this month. The SM-3 1A is made by Waltham, Massachusetts-based Raytheon Co.

Before **BIDEN**'s visit, his national- security adviser, Tony Blinken, said there had never been any plan to discard missile defense and Poland would have "first refusal" to host the SM- 3s.

"It was unfortunate that some of the initial headlines, when the decision was announced, talked about the U.S. 'abandoning' missile defense in Europe," Blinken told reporters on an Oct. 19 conference call. "It's exactly the opposite. The approach we're taking strengthens missile defense in Europe."

Leaders in Poland and other countries in central Europe have expressed suspicions about Russia's intentions in the region, which was dominated by the Soviet Union for more than four decades after World War II.

Strained Relations

Polish-Russian relations have been strained by Poland's backing of NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia, which Russia opposes, and a Russian-German plan to build a pipeline under the Baltic Sea that would carry Russian gas directly to Poland's western neighbor, Germany.

Polish leaders want Obama to honor an agreement signed with the Bush administration last year for the delivery of a battery of Patriot air-defense missiles, also made by Raytheon. It is unclear whether Obama will station the missiles in Poland on a permanent basis, as the European Union's largest eastern member wants, or rotate them between countries.

"Poland is faced with the problem of changing and building up its air-defense system, so the Patriots could be a vital element of this," Wypych said. "It would also prove that we are an important partner for the U.S., that the administration knows it can rely on us."

AP

US VP BIDEN woos Poland after missile program cut

By RYAN LUCAS and MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

WARSAW, Poland — U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** sought reconciliation with America's staunch allies in eastern Europe Wednesday, starting with Poland, which eagerly signed on to a revamped U.S. missile shield.

A month after the Obama administration stung Poland by scrapping a Bush-era plan that would have placed a major anti-missile base in the country, the Polish prime minister and president gave their backing to the scaled-down alternative. That was an achievement for **BIDEN** who will take his message to Romania and the Czech Republic.

Premier Donald Tusk signed on to President Barack Obama's revamped U.S. missile shield, declaring Poland ready to participate in the project, which is intended to counter threats from Iran.

"I want to stress that Poland views .. the new configuration for the missile shield as very interesting, necessary, and we are ready at the appropriate scale to participate," Tusk told reporters at a news conference with **BIDEN**.

The Obama plan would place SM-3 anti-ballistic missiles at a former air base in the town of Redzikowo in northern Poland — the same site that was to host U.S. missile interceptors in underground silos under the Bush plan.

Poland views hosting a U.S. missile defense base as a means to cement its security ties with Washington, particularly in the face of a resurgent Russia.

The Poles "had to accept this version (of missile defense) even though there were a lot of negative comments coming out of Warsaw when the revamped system's details were released," said Marko Papić, a Eurasia analyst for Stratfor, a U.S.-based global intelligence company. "But then again a lot of that was just emotion from being 'abandoned.'"

Moscow, meanwhile, perceives the new plan as less threatening because it wouldn't initially involve interceptors capable of shooting down Russia's intercontinental ballistic missiles, experts say.

"It won't pose any threat until 2020," Retired Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin, who formerly headed a Russian Defense Ministry structure in charge of arms control negotiations, said last month.

"But that threat will only exist if our relations with the U.S. remain marred by controversy and we fail to agree on joint development and use of missile defense," he said. Russia has not officially reacted to the new plan.

President Barack Obama's decision to scrap the Bush plan removed a major irritant in U.S. relations with Russia. But it also sparked fears among the ex-communist nations of Eastern Europe — which have been among the staunchest U.S. allies since Communism's collapse in 1989 — that Obama was sacrificing their interests in order to improve ties with the Kremlin.

BIDEN's visit to Poland — and later stops in Romania and the Czech Republic — aim to reassure Washington's allies of its support and to dispel fears that the administration is ignoring their interests amid its push to reset relations with Russia.

All three of countries on **BIDEN's** trip have viewed the U.S. as the guarantor of their security since shedding Soviet-backed regimes 20 years ago as communism unraveled and setting their sites on the West. Eager to bring them into the western fold, Washington spearheaded the successful drive to make the trio members of NATO.

In return, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic have thrown their support behind Washington in its fight against terrorism, contributing troops to the U.S.-led war in Iraq and the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

The Bush-era project would have placed 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic to intercept long-range missiles from Iran.

Under Obama's new missile defense plan, U.S. Navy ships equipped with anti-missile weapons — such as the Navy's Standard Missile-3 — would form a front line of defense in the eastern Mediterranean. Those would be combined with land-based anti-missile systems to be placed on shore in Europe.

The proposal calls for a focus on short and medium-range interceptors to better counter expected threats from Iran. The Pentagon says the SM-3 anti-ballistic missile is the most technically advanced and cost-effective way to counter Tehran's anticipated arsenal. No new details of the plan were announced Wednesday.

Obama has said the old blueprint was scrapped largely because the U.S. has concluded that Iran is less focused on developing the kind of long-range missiles for which the Bush-era system was originally developed.

BIDEN said the U.S. administration's new approach would meet "a growing threat" to the U.S. and Europe, and praised Poland for its readiness to sign on.

"We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defense plan, and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way ... with new technology and new information, to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Eugeniusz Smolar, the director of the Center for International Relations in Warsaw, said adopting the Obama administration's approach was an easy call for Poland.

"This proposal is much more Europe oriented because the new system is to deal more with the medium- and short-range threats, and this is exactly what Poland has been seeking," Smolar said.

He added that the new plan is also "more NATO oriented, which is good, because it means there will be much less tension among the allies who have been complaining that Poland has been doing its own agreement with the U.S. outside of NATO."

BIDEN also met with Polish President Lech Kaczynski and Polish soldiers who have served in NATO's mission in Afghanistan before departing for Romania.

He will visit the Czech Republic on Friday.

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Washington Times

BIDEN, Polish leaders agree on revised missile plan

Matthew Mosk

WARSAW -- The Obama administration reached a new agreement Wednesday with top Polish government officials to place a new generation of missile interceptors on Polish soil, a surprising turnabout from just a few weeks earlier when it appeared the United States was ready to abandon its missile defense program in Eastern Europe.

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk emerged from a lengthy private discussion to announce that Poland's participation in the missile defense system was, essentially, back on -- though in a new format that involves delivering a smaller number of defensive weapons in 2018.

Mr. Tusk said through a translator that he considered the revised proposal "a very interesting idea."

"We are ready to participate in this project," he said.

The hastily arranged vice presidential trip, which also will include stops in Romania and the Czech Republic this week, was intended to soothe relations and reassure the fledgling NATO members that the missile program was not being scrapped, and that the evolving policy should not be viewed as a snub or a weakening of U.S. security commitments to states in the region.

Mr. **BIDEN** had his work cut out for him. For starters, Poland and former Warsaw Pact nations once dominated by the Soviet Union already were feeling uneasy about the bilateral discussions between the United States and Russia. Then Mr. Obama, with no warning, announced the shift in missile policy on the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Poland, the wrong day for a country that remains deeply sensitive about its history with major world powers on its borders.

Placing defensive weapons in Poland and radar systems in the Czech Republic had been a program pushed aggressively by the George W. Bush administration, even though the plan raised strong objections from Russia, which argued the system could in time be used to undermine Moscow's nuclear arsenal deterrent. Polish officials came to welcome the idea, less for the military value of the weapons than for the added security of having an American military presence within their borders.

The vice president gamely waded into the sticky diplomatic situation, pouring on the charm as his meeting with Polish President Lech Kaczynski ran more than 30 minutes over its scheduled length. "When two old friends get together, they tend to talk," a smiling Mr. **BIDEN** said afterward.

Mr. Kaczynski described the conversation as "a source of optimism to me." While "there are some difficulties" still to discuss regarding missile defense, "we hope they will be resolved," he said.

In joint remarks with the prime minister, Mr. **BIDEN** did everything he could to convey America's resolute support for the security of Poland.

Noting NATO's collective security pledge, Mr. **BIDEN** said: "An attack on one is an attack on all. And this strategic assurance is absolute. Absolute, Mr. Prime Minister."

"Make no mistake about it," he continued, "our commitment to Poland is unwavering."

Toby Gati, a senior adviser on Russia and Eurasia in the Clinton White House, said that the outcome of the visit was favorable for the Poles.

"The Poles are going to do just fine under the new missile defense plans," she said. "They were smart not to make a fuss and fight the Obama administration, but instead to try to figure out ways to enhance their security with the 'new guys in charge.'"

The Kremlin, meanwhile, may end up having "buyer's remorse," she said.

"Yes, they got rid of the system Bush put forward, which they no doubt consider a political victory, but from the point of view of a U.S. 'presence' and a possible threat to Russia, as the pieces of the system are integrated, this system may be of much greater concern," Mrs. Gati said. "Unless, of course, we and the Russians do eventually cooperate on missile defense."

The vice president also delivered to the Polish leaders the first broad outlines of the Obama administration's approach to Central and Eastern Europe, telling them that, 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States now viewed the former Warsaw Pact nations as equal partners.

As much as the visit was intended to look forward, Mr. **BIDEN** did make a brief detour to lay a wreath at the Warsaw Ghetto Monument, a stone edifice erected in 1948 in the memory of the Jews who rose up against the Nazis and those who were marched off to death.

In a light drizzle under an overcast sky, Mr. **BIDEN** quietly greeted two local rabbis, one of whom stood with a cane, in a corner of the cobblestone square where the monument stands. In a dark suit and no overcoat, he then walked with a Polish military officer to the center of the square. Surrounded by 14 Polish soldiers in military-issue coats, most holding raised rifles, Mr. **BIDEN** and his escort stood frozen as a bugle sounded. A snare drum snapped off a slow march, and the two took deliberate steps toward the 20-foot monument, which depicts resistance fighters gripping hand grenades.

Polish soldiers placed a wreath of crimson roses at the base. A sash across the wreath read, "In memory of the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising." The bugler played taps as Mr. **BIDEN** held his hand over his heart. As he walked quietly away, a group of 10 Jewish schoolgirls sang an Israeli folk song. The vice president flashed a quick smile and waved at the schoolchildren before returning to the motorcade.

CNN

Poland agrees to host part of new U.S. missile defense plan

(CNN) -- Poland has agreed to host elements of the new U.S. missile defense plan despite initial surprise over the Obama administration's recent decision to overhaul President Bush's strategy.

"We are ready to participate in the project," said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who made the announcement Wednesday with Vice President Joe **BIDEN** in Warsaw.

BIDEN said the United States was appreciative when Poland was willing to host an element of the now-scrapped missile defense plan proposed by the Bush administration and is grateful for its continued support.

"We now appreciate that [Poland's](#) government agrees with us that there is now a better way with new technology and new information to defend against emerging ballistic missile threats," **BIDEN** said.

Later, **BIDEN** met with Polish President Lech Kaczynski, who said "there are some difficulties" still to be discussed regarding missile defense, but there is hope those issues "will be resolved."

Poland and the Czech Republic, both NATO members, agreed during the Bush administration to host major aspects of the missile defense system that would monitor and defend Europe from a possible missile attack by Iran.

The [Czech Republic](#) would have had a major radar assembly, and Poland would have had defensive interceptor missiles along its borders.

Russia was strongly against the plan from the start, claiming the missiles could be retrofitted with nuclear warheads, putting offensive weapons on its doorstep -- a claim the United States always denied.

In September, the [Obama](#) administration said it would scrap the Bush plan because of new intelligence showing Iran was not close to acquiring a long-range intercontinental ballistic missile, against which the missile defense system was designed to defend.

The administration laid out a new plan aimed at a more realistic threat of short- and medium-range missiles and would involve the use of ship-based interceptor missiles in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

There was much opposition to the decision in Poland, and a belief emerged that the new system was devised to curry favor with Russia. But top Pentagon officials have said the new missile system does not reflect a departure from previous goals and was not influenced by U.S.-Russian relations.

In announcing the revised strategy, the Obama administration pledged that Poland and the Czech Republic eventually could still be involved in the new plan. In this case, the United States has asked Poland to host the Standard Missile-3, or SM-3s.

"Our new phased adaptive approach to missile defense is designed to meet a growing threat not only to the United States, but first and foremost to Europe," **BIDEN** said. "It's going to meet it with proven

technology that will cover more of Europe including Poland and will do it more efficiently than the previous system could have or did."

The men both praised U.S.-Polish relations.

"Our views are identical," Tusk said through a translator.

BIDEN pledged U.S. commitment to Poland's security and praised Polish troops that have been deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans.

"Make no mistake about it, our commitment to Poland is unwavering," **BIDEN** said.

The U.S. vice president made other stops Wednesday in Poland. He visited the Warsaw Stock Exchange and the Warsaw Ghetto Monument, erected in memory of the Jews who rose up against the Nazis and those who were marched off to death.

Financial Times

Poland joins new US missile defence system

By Jan Cienski in Warsaw

Poland will participate in a new US missile defence programme, Donald Tusk, the prime minister, said on Wednesday after meeting Joe **BIDEN**, US vice-president.

“The project of a new configuration of missile defence is very interesting. We want to take part,” Mr Tusk said.

The missile defence plan is a replacement for an interceptor system proposed by the Bush administration to defend the US against Iran but abandoned under Barack Obama, president.

“We appreciate Poland has stepped up and agreed to host an element of the previous missile defence plan and we now appreciate that Poland's government agrees with us that there is now a better way,” Mr **BIDEN** said.

Warsaw was nonplussed last month when the US administration backed away from the missile defence programme put forward by George W. Bush. That plan had called for a missile interceptor base in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic.

Although the plan did not have much public support in either Poland or the Czech Republic, the governments of both countries saw the bases as a way of permanently stationing US troops on their territory, which would have given them additional security against a resurgent Russia.

Moscow had opposed the plan, even threatening to target the installations with nuclear missiles. When Mr Obama took power, his administration rethought the plan, upsetting Prague and Warsaw, which incurred the displeasure of other European Union countries in going forward with missile defence. Adding to Poland's irritation, the US decision to back away from the Bush programme came on September 17, the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Poland by the Soviet Union.

In Prague, Mirek Topolánek, the former Czech prime minister who negotiated the radar agreement with the US, said retreating from the missile defence shield, “raises questions of whether the US is not abandoning central and eastern Europe in exchange for better relations with Moscow”.

Mr **BIDEN**, who is also visiting Romania and the Czech Republic, is trying to repair some of the damage caused by the defence shield decision. He told Mr Tusk that the US was still committed to Poland's security and stressed that the new anti-missile system would be better than the old one.

Getting Poland back on board the US programme after a series of often inadvertent US slights over the past few months will help defuse accusations in Washington that the Obama administration has abandoned its central European allies and will give the US more leeway in building better ties with Russia.

Wall Street Journal

BIDEN Late With Poland Visit

By Marcin Sobczyk

After a number of American decisions interpreted as slaps in Poland's face, the U.S. now sends its Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** to the biggest Central European country for a series of conciliatory smiles, handshakes and back patting. Of course, Polish politicians smile back, but the reality is Poland no longer has that warm feeling in its heart when it thinks "America."

Not a long time ago the **BIDEN** visit would be a big deal here – for decades, Poles were passionately, madly in love with the United States. America was the preferred country to immigrate to, the Promised Land with everything the best and the biggest, an idealized paradise.

Of course, Poland would like to be loved back, but despite its claim to being a power with a strong regional influence, it actually knows quite well that Central Europe and its individual countries are not important to the U.S. now that they're stable and in NATO and the European Union. Still, the country sent a number of signals that some cordiality from the U.S. would be welcome after Poland committed its troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, and agreed to host the U.S. missile shield knowing that Russia would be furious.

If the Obama administration wanted to mend fences with Russia, it could have considered sending a senior official to Poland first to make sure winning new friends would not come at the expense of older ties.

It could have sent someone more meaningful than a powerless former diplomat to the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. Russia's Putin and Germany's Merkel attended, so would it really hurt if **BIDEN** came to the Polish Baltic Coast on September 1?

That would have actually given the U.S. a very good chance to prepare Poland for its decision that came just two and a half weeks later to scrap the Bush-era missile shield. Poland saw that shield as an important project and the first major military installation from a NATO member state on its soil, so its scrapping really hurt.

Of course there are no obligations for the U.S. to have privileged relations with Poland, and even if they were declared, Poland would still make America's second-class ally. Clearly, the current U.S. administration cares less about Poland than before. But then it should not be surprised if the U.S. vice-presidential visit no longer sends shivers down the Polish spine.

AP

NATO to meet on Afghanistan, missile defense

By VANESSA GERA and SLOBODAN LEKIC

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — NATO defense ministers will meet here Thursday to discuss the war in Afghanistan and the growing support for President Barack Obama's plans for a new missile defense system in Europe.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the informal two-day meeting of defense ministers from the 28 NATO member countries will focus mainly on the 8-year-old war in Afghanistan. A runoff presidential election is set there for Nov. 7, and Obama is considering whether to send more troops to Afghanistan, where the Taliban insurgency has been making strides.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is expected to brief allies in Bratislava about progress in a review of recommendations by American Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan. McChrystal has called for more troops, and Fogh Rasmussen has said he hopes NATO members can endorse that recommendation.

But that could be difficult in the many European countries where the war is unpopular.

NATO currently has about 68,000 troops in Afghanistan, of which 32,000 are Americans. The U.S. military also has about 36,000 additional soldiers serving outside NATO under a separate command.

Fogh Rasmussen said that in light of Afghanistan's disputed election results — which led to the agreement to hold the runoff — it makes sense to delay any final decision about additional troops for now.

"I hope that we will have a clarification of the political situation in Afghanistan, because time is not on our side," he said Monday.

Two senior Western diplomats at NATO headquarters in Brussels told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the NATO ministers will discuss McChrystal's strategy review but make no new commitments on troops until Washington decides whether to follow McChrystal's recommendation for a troop increase. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity, in keeping with the regulations of their jobs.

Jaroslav Baska, the Slovak defense minister and the host of conference, said his country was waiting on McChrystal's assessment to see what kind of financial impact it will have and underlined that Slovakia was unlikely to increase its military spending.

"The Slovak military budget has been cut by 25 percent in the last year, and we would like to preserve that," he said.

The meeting in Bratislava comes as U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** visits Central Europe, with stops in Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. He is discussing the new U.S. missile defense plan and reassuring the strongly pro-American countries that Washington still supports them, even though it scrapped the Bush-era missile defense plan for sites in Poland and the Czech Republic. Russia strongly

opposed Bush's plan and has welcomed Obama's shift away from it, creating some nervousness in Warsaw and Prague.

Baska said he expects Gates to explain changes in the policy and how it would affect NATO.

"Any kind of defense that can secure Europe is welcome. If this becomes part of NATO's own missile defense then it is doubly welcome," he said.

On Wednesday, **BIDEN** secured Poland's willingness to participate in Obama's reconfigured missile defense system for Europe.

Fogh Rasmussen also has praised Obama's shift in thinking on missile defense and said he sees a greater role in it for NATO.

AP

'Possible' Obama Afghan announcement before Nov. 7

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday it's "certainly possible" that President Barack Obama could announce before a scheduled new election in Afghanistan whether to send more troops into the U.S. war there.

A runoff presidential election in Afghanistan is set for Nov. 7. Afghan President Hamid Karzai will face ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, his main challenger in that country's disputed Aug. 20 election.

Obama is mulling how to shift strategy in the 8-year-old Afghanistan war, including a possible U.S. troop increase, and the election mess in Afghanistan has played a big role in his intensive, weeks-long discussions with his war council.

The White House has been saying that Obama's decision was still weeks away. But White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters that it is possible the president could make an announcement before the new voting in Afghanistan.

"I don't know when the decision is going to be, so it's certainly possible," Gibbs said.

Obama also is leaving Nov. 11 for a long trip to Asia, and it has been expected he would make a decision before then.

In agreeing to a runoff, Karzai bowed to intense U.S. pressure. A U.N. investigation found evidence of election fraud in the first round of voting and invalidated nearly a third of the votes cast for Karzai.

Obama and other administration officials welcomed Karzai's decision as a sign of hope that a credible government could be established in Kabul. Gibbs called it a "very important first step in terms of that legitimacy" that the U.S. needs to continue to engage the fight in Afghanistan.

The president was scheduled to have his next Afghanistan meeting this week. But Gibbs said it has been put off until at least next week while key administration players — such as Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — are away on overseas trips.

AFP

BIDEN arrives in Romania on second leg of east European tour

BUCHAREST — US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Romania Wednesday after a one-day visit to Warsaw where he secured Poland's approval for a new US anti-missile system.

BIDEN's plane touched down at Bucharest airport at 20H30 local time (17H30 GMT), according to an AFP photographer.

Bucharest is the second leg of a three-nation east European tour also including the Czech Republic, aimed at reaffirming the US partnership with the countries in the region.

The trip comes a month after a Bush-era missile shield was shelved, prompting Czech and Polish media to accuse president Barack Obama of "treachery" and selling out to Moscow.

US officials denied however **BIDEN** was on a mission to pacify US partners.

The Bush administration said the shield was designed to ward off potential attacks by so-called "rogue" states, namely Iran, but Russia slammed it as a threat to its national security.

But Obama said that after a rethink, and the realisation that Iran was developing its own missiles more slowly than anticipated, his administration was opting for a more flexible system.

In Bucharest, **BIDEN** is due on Thursday to meet Romanian president Traian Basescu and prime minister Emil Boc before delivering a key speech on relations between the US and central Europe.

Romania, which was not covered by the first antimissile defense system, welcomed the new plan.

"The new system protects the whole of the Romanian territory against possible missile attacks and this is very important," Bogdan Aurescu, a Romanian foreign ministry official, said.

BIDEN will leave Bucharest on Thursday evening heading for Prague.

AP

Obama hits campaign trail for NJ Gov Jon Corzine

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, doing his part to help keep a Democrat in charge of New Jersey, was heading there Wednesday to campaign for Gov. Jon Corzine.

Obama, who remains popular among New Jersey Democrats, was to speak at a rally at Fairleigh Dickinson University's campus in Hackensack. It will be his second campaign appearance in the Garden State for Corzine.

Recent polls show Corzine tied with Republican Chris Christie, who had enjoyed double-digit leads.

It's Obama's second political trip of the week as the 2009 campaign season draws to a close with elections Nov. 3, part of a presidential blitz to help raise money and rally loyalists for the off-year elections.

Democrats face the prospect of losing hard-fought gubernatorial races in Virginia and perhaps New Jersey, two contests that, to a degree, are shaping up as a test of Obama's political strength.

Obama took to the stump Monday night in New York City, helping raise as much as \$3 million for the Democratic Party along with an unspecified sum for Bill Owens, the Democrat in a special congressional election in upstate New York. John McHugh, the Republican who had held the seat, stepped down to become Obama's Army secretary.

On Friday, the president heads to New England to attend fundraisers for Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who is up for re-election in 2010, and Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd, also seeking another term next year.

Next Tuesday, Obama is scheduled to stump in Norfolk, Va., for Democrat Creigh Deeds, who is trailing in the race for Virginia governor.

Obama's appearance Wednesday in support of Corzine follows campaign visits to New Jersey this week by Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton.

Obama last stumped for Corzine in July at a rally in Holmdel, N.J.

Christian Science Monitor

Can Obama rescue Corzine in New Jersey governor's race?

By Ron Scherer

When President Obama travels to New Jersey Wednesday night, he might think he's running for office in the Garden State because Gov. Jon Corzine (D), in an effort to win votes, has erected billboards extolling "Obama Corzine."

But Mr. Obama's billboards and visits are integral to Corzine's strategy against Republican challenger and former US attorney Chris Christie.

"Corzine is trying to push the ties to himself and the president with Democratic voters," says Patrick Murray, director of polling at the Monmouth University Polling Institute in New Jersey. "This is to get those Democratic voters disenchanted with Corzine and upset with high property taxes to forget about that and vote one for the team, headed by Barack Obama."

Obama is not the only Democratic dignitary to hit the state for Corzine's campaign. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and former President Bill Clinton have come visiting, too.

Polls show the strategy is having an impact, says Mr. Murray. In August, a Monmouth/Gannett poll found 17 percent of Democratic voters planned to vote for the Republican Mr. Christie. In the latest poll released Tuesday, that was down to 8 percent.

"More importantly, people who planned not to vote now plan to do so because it is being seen as a referendum on Obama who has an 87 percent approval rating in the state," says Murray. Despite the outside help, the race is still expected to be close. Voters are seething over high property taxes, and have put their thumbs down on Corzine proposals to increase gasoline taxes and unload the Turnpike.

"The race for governor in New Jersey is very unclear, very murky," says Lee Miringoff of the Marist Institute of Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. "The winner may not break 50 percent of the vote." One big reason for the political fog in the Jersey race is independent candidate Chris Daggett, a former regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who has won the endorsement of the Star-Ledger, the state's largest paper. In the latest Monmouth/Gannett poll, Mr. Daggett attracts 14 percent of the vote, double his early October showing.

Some of Daggett's proposals – such as lowering property taxes by adding a sales tax – have gained traction with voters.

However, Murray says he thinks Daggett's campaign has probably peaked. "If he was able to build on the splash created by his property tax proposal, he would need to be over 20 percent of the vote at this point in time," he says. "And he does not have the money you need for the most expensive media markets to keep his name out there."

Candidates have to run ads on New York and Philadelphia stations.

Some of Daggett's votes may be the result of voter disgust over the brass-knuckle tactics. "[Corzine] has talked about Christie's ethics, his weight, and that he did not have a plan to balance the state's budget.

By last week we had a tie race,” says Cliff Zukin, a professor of public policy at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University.

Corzine, a former Wall Street investment banker who is bankrolling his own campaign, has been spending \$1 million a week on advertising since the primary, says Mr. Zukin.

Meanwhile, Christie has been hamstrung by only having \$19.5 million in public campaign financing and having to save funds for the last stretch of campaigning.

Obama’s visit will be to Bergen County, across the Hudson River from New York. “Historically, a Republican must win the county to win the state,” says Murray.

Whoever wins inherits an \$8 billion state budget deficit. “The only thing growing is public employment,” says Mr. Zukin. “It makes you wonder why anyone wants this job.”

Reuters

Obama wades into Democrats' tough governor races

By Patricia Zengerle

MCLEAN, Virginia (Reuters) - U.S. President Barack Obama threw himself into the role of "campaigner in chief" on Wednesday, making appeals for Democratic candidates in two state governor races that some see as a referendum on his performance in the White House.

Obama was to travel to New Jersey for a rally on behalf of Jon Corzine, who is locked in a tight race to remain governor of the heavily Democratic state.

The president also appeared in an ad released on Wednesday for Creigh Deeds, who trails by double digits in his bid to become the third consecutive Democratic governor of Virginia, a state that backed Obama in the 2008 presidential election but is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans.

Obama will travel to Norfolk, Virginia, next Tuesday for his second campaign rally for Deeds.

"I need every one of you to get fired up once again so that we can go toward the future, with Creigh Deeds leading the great Commonwealth of Virginia," Obama says in the ad, which uses a speech he made at his first appearance for Deeds.

Analysts said New Jersey and Virginia, the only governors' seats up for grabs this year, could influence Obama policy priorities like his efforts to reform the U.S. healthcare system and regulation of financial markets.

Defeat for Deeds and Corzine on November 3 could convince more moderate legislators that support for Democrats has weakened since Obama's election victory last November and keep them from backing efforts like the healthcare overhaul, which opponents have charged is too expensive.

NEW JERSEY RACE SEEN AS MORE LOCAL

The race in heavily Democratic New Jersey reflects more the struggles of an unpopular incumbent than the national political mood and will be decided on Corzine's handling of issues such as the state's high property taxes, analysts said.

Corzine, a former executive with investment firm Goldman Sachs, is locked in a tight re-election battle with Republican Christopher Christie, who has clung to a small poll lead despite appearances by Obama and Vice President Joe **BIDEN**.

Former Democratic President Bill Clinton has also campaigned for both Corzine and Deeds.

The Virginia race is seen as more of a referendum on national issues such as the economy and healthcare.

Republican Bob McDonnell leads Deeds by 52 percent to 40 percent, according to a poll of 666 Virginia voters released on Wednesday by Public Policy Polling. McDonnell had led Deeds by just 48 percent to 43 percent in its previous survey, conducted three weeks earlier.

"Creigh Deeds is in a pretty dire position right now," said Dean Debnam, president of Public Policy Polling.

"Democrats aren't very enthusiastic about this election. He has to hope that visits on his behalf from folks like Barack Obama and Bill Clinton get a lot more of the party's base out to the polls."

A Quinnipiac University poll conducted on October 7-12 gave Christie 41 percent of the vote against 40 percent for Corzine and 14 percent for independent candidate Chris Daggett.

That compares with a four-point lead for Christie in the previous Quinnipiac poll and bigger advantages for Christie in other polls over recent months.

The race has been so negative that Corzine ran a TV ad this week that appeared to mock the portly Christie for his weight.

Democrats now hold 28 governorships in the 50 states, including New Jersey and Virginia, while Republicans have 22.

In Virginia, incumbent Democratic Governor Tim Kaine cannot run because of term limits. Kaine's predecessor and fellow Democrat Mark Warner is now one of the state's two U.S. senators.

New Jersey has not elected a Republican governor since Christine Todd Whitman in 1994.

New York Times

Fate of White House Counsel Is in Doubt After Bruising Fights

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — Every morning, Gregory B. Craig, the White House counsel, sits at the conference table of the Roosevelt Room with the rest of the president's senior staff.

His colleagues greet him, friendly as always. He updates the room on his issues and listens as they update him on theirs.

The one issue that does not come up? Mr. Craig himself.

As President Obama's top lawyer, Mr. Craig has been at the center of thorny decisions on closing the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and revising interrogation and detention policies, problems that have bedeviled the new administration and generated fierce battles inside and outside the White House. And for months now, he has endured a spate of speculation in print and around the White House about whether he is on the way out.

Mr. Craig said he had no plans to leave, and White House officials said the president still had faith in him. But colleagues and Democrats close to the White House said they expected him to move on around the end of the year, and have been talking about possible replacements. Whether Mr. Craig leaves or not, the discussion of his fate has grown so persistent and the situation so awkward that one supporter calls it "the Greg Craig watch."

It is a classic and not particularly savory Washington story. When an administration stumbles, whispers begin and fingers point in search of someone to blame. At a certain point, assumptions can become self-fulfilling, and an official in the cross hairs finds it harder to do the job. In Mr. Craig's case, friends said he was unfairly being made a scapegoat for decisions supported across the administration.

"Everybody who's here in Washington has seen this play before, when internal second-guessing and rivalries burst out into public," said Elisa Massimino, executive director of Human Rights First, an advocacy group that has worked with Mr. Craig to reverse President George W. Bush's policies.

"What he did was jump in with both feet," Ms. Massimino added. "Had he not done that, we would not be nearly so close as we are to finally turning this problem around."

Mr. Craig, a former adviser to Senator Edward M. Kennedy and President Bill Clinton, is a savvy capital veteran. He declined to comment on his plans, but told the National Law Journal that he was staying. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., who called Mr. Craig "extremely effective," said he had maintained equanimity despite the anonymous sniping.

"Having been in Washington as long as he has been, there's a familiarity to this, an inoculation against it," Mr. Holder said in an interview. "So that helps, I'm sure, in dealing with this situation."

Mr. Craig was handed one of the most difficult portfolios at the White House. He drafted executive orders banning torture and ordering Guantánamo closed within a year. Over the objections of the Central Intelligence Agency, he recommended the release of Justice Department memos describing harsh interrogations. And he was at the center of the White House decision to reverse itself and withhold photographs of detainee abuse.

Mr. Craig took flak for those decisions, criticized for not doing more to build consensus within the administration or prepare the political ground in Congress. And the prospect of closing Guantánamo by the one-year deadline he helped set has proved more difficult than anticipated and now appears unlikely to be met.

At moments, it has looked as if Mr. Craig's authority has been trimmed back. Rahm Emanuel, the White House chief of staff, assigned Pete Rouse, a senior adviser with deep ties to Capitol Hill, to oversee Guantánamo issues.

Similarly, after Mr. Craig started the search that produced the Supreme Court nomination of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Mr. Emanuel assigned the confirmation fight to Ronald A. Klain and Cynthia Hogan, aides to Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. with long experience handling judicial appointments.

In both instances, officials said that Mr. Craig remained involved but that it made sense to tap people with political backgrounds to manage political issues, particularly since Mr. Craig had so many other duties, like scrutinizing legislation, vetting appointees and selecting judges. But articles in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and Politico questioned Mr. Craig's job security, citing anonymous critics.

In an interview, Mr. Emanuel said Mr. Craig should not be faulted, especially on Guantánamo. "The president believes he has done a very good job and continues to do a very good job," Mr. Emanuel said. "The notion that you're going to blame him is ridiculous. He didn't create Guantánamo. He is trying to work within the system to meet the president's goal."

Many in the White House are angry at the whispering campaign. Mr. Craig, 64, is well liked, a veteran Washington lawyer with an easy smile, a friendly manner and thick wavy hair that makes him look like a member of the Kennedy family he once served.

He studied law at Yale with Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton and joined the Clinton White House in 1998 to fight impeachment. Longtime aides resented the newcomer. When the announcement of his appointment described Mr. Craig as the "quarterback" of the impeachment defense, some Clinton aides, including Mr. Emanuel, derisively referred to him as "QB." (All these years later, Mr. Emanuel said he liked and respected Mr. Craig.)

Mr. Craig later broke with the Clintons to become one of Mr. Obama's earliest backers for president. He told Newsweek he was "blown away" by Mr. Obama's books; he was such an enthusiast that Mr. Obama referred to him as one of the "Kool-Aid kids." After the election, Mr. Obama made him White House counsel, overruling advisers who thought he was not the best fit or who favored other candidates.

Mr. Craig was hardly the only adviser advocating a one-year deadline to close Guantánamo; Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, among others, also argued for it. "That's how you force the action and get things done, and the truth is we're making good progress on it," said David Axelrod, Mr. Obama's senior adviser. "But the thing is, it was a legal and policy thicket."

Tom Malinowski, Washington director of Human Rights Watch, said that while the White House made mistakes in how it handled the closing of Guantánamo, fueling an uproar in Congress, it would be unfair to assign those mistakes to Mr. Craig. "To make Greg the fall guy, if that indeed is what they're doing, is profoundly disingenuous," Mr. Malinowski said.

Whatever the motivation, the talk does its damage.

“In the White House, in particular, power is the perception of power,” said Bradford A. Berenson, a former associate White House counsel under Mr. Bush. “And if people perceive you to be under attack and on the way out, it limits your effectiveness.”

OBTAINED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Muldoon, Anne P. EOP/OVP

Tue, 24 Nov 2015 20:25:39 -0500

To: Sara Biden

Cc: Jim Biden

2015 White House Holiday Tour Confirmation/Boarding Pass

Attachments: [WH Holiday Open House Boarding Pass - OVP 1 - 12-12-2015 - 0330pm - Anne Marie Person.pdf](#) (6.7 MB)

Sara,

Please feel free to pass along to your guests for the holiday tour- thank you!!

You are confirmed for the 2015 White House Holiday Tour on December 12th at 3:30pm. Please see attached for your confirmation and boarding pass. Your boarding pass includes information on items you can and cannot bring on the tour with you. It also provides a map to give you a reference point on where you need to go.

Guest entrances will be at 15th Street and Hamilton Place and you should be there 15 min prior to your tour time.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks again and enjoy!

Anne Marie

Anne Marie Muldoon
Office of the Vice President
(202) 456-1732

ACQUIRED BY AMERICA FIRST LEGAL FOUNDATION THROUGH LITIGATION

Group Name: OVP 1
 Date: 12/12/2015
 Time: 3:30PM

24-hour Tour Hotline: 202-456-7041
whitehouse.gov/about/tours-and-events



Use the hashtag #WHHoliday to share your experience.

WELCOME to the WHITE HOUSE

The White House is the only building in the world that is a free museum, an office, and home to a head of state. But this isn't simply a place for Presidents. It's "The People's House" – so it's your house, too.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



ALL GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING THIS DOCUMENT AND A GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTO ID

- Driver's licenses, military IDs, green cards, and US passports are all valid forms of identification.
- American citizens who are under 18 *do not* need a government-issued ID.
- All foreign nationals must present a passport—regardless of age.
- No other forms of identification will be accepted (including photocopies, expired IDs, or other transmissions of these documents).
- All security information submitted to the White House must match the government-issued photo ID you bring with you.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Eat a snack and stay hydrated prior to arrival.
- Dress for the weather (you will be standing outside before your tour).
- There are no restrooms available at the White House. Restrooms are located at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion and the White House Visitor Center (see map below).
- Arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled tour time.
- Additions and/or substitutions that are not approved by the White House will be turned away.
- Tours last approximately 45 minutes.
- Tours are self-guided. Secret Service Officers are posted throughout the White House to provide historical information.
- White House tours are free to the public and cannot be sold.
- **Visitors are strongly discouraged from bringing gifts.**
- **The President and First Lady will NOT be in attendance.**



PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Video cameras, cameras with detachable lenses, tablets, iPads, tripods, monopods, and camera sticks
- Book bags, backpacks, briefcases, luggage of any kind, computer bags, or any bags larger than 12" x 6" x 12"
- Any pointed objects, including pocket knives
- Strollers and diaper bags
- Food, liquids, aerosols, tobacco products, personal grooming items (i.e. makeup, lotion, etc)
- Guns, ammunition, fireworks, electric stun guns, mace, martial arts weapons/devices, toy weapons, or knives of any kind

THERE ARE NO STORAGE FACILITIES AVAILABLE ON THE WHITE HOUSE COMPLEX. INDIVIDUALS WHO ARRIVE WITH PROHIBITED ITEMS WILL BE TURNED AWAY.

PERMITTED ITEMS

- Compact cameras (still photography only, no video recording or streaming, lenses must be less than 3 inches long)
- Umbrellas without metal tips
- Wallets and small clutch bags or bags that do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- Cell phones (talking or texting is not permitted, still photography is allowed, please silence your phone)
- All items needed for medical purposes will be permitted (i.e. wheelchairs, electric scooters, glucose tablets, EpiPens, medication, etc)

Requested By: Anne Marie Person

