



PRESS RELEASE

Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and the Russian Federation

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the United Nations is pleased to announce that on Wednesday, 14 January 2004, in New York City, H.E. Ms. Paulette A. Bethel, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of The Bahamas to the United Nations, signed a Joint Communiqué establishing formal diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation.

The Joint Communiqué, which was also signed on behalf of the Russian Federation by H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, states that the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and the Russian Federation, desirous of strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the Ambassadorial level, in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961, as of 14th January 2004.

The communiqué emphasises the basic principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly on international peace and security, equality among States, national sovereignty, independence, international treaties, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

The Russian Federation, the largest and most influential of the countries formerly comprising the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), which was a founding member of the United Nations, holds one of the five (5) permanent seats on the UN Security Council. Since the dissolution of the USSR in December 1991, the Russian Government has sought to build a democratic political system and market economy. The establishment of formal relations with the Russian Federation is a part of the Bahamas Government's long-term foreign policy of fostering closer partnerships with strategic countries in all corners of the globe. The Bahamas looks forward to closer collaboration with the Russian Federation, not only on a bilateral basis, but also in the United Nations and other multilateral arena.

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