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PRESS RELEASE

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov Speaks to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan by Telephone

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On April 8, a telephone conversation between Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov and Kofi Annan took place at the UN Secretary General's initiative.

The situation in the Middle East was discussed. Kofi Annan stressed that now, as never before, a coordinated strategy was needed to be developed within the framework of the four international mediators, and in this connection suggested holding a meeting of the Middle East Quartet in New York at the end of April - the start of May this year.

Lavrov backed up Annan's initiative, including in terms of the involvement in it of key regionals (primarily, Egypt and Jordan). It was tentatively agreed that the meeting could take place at the end of April.

April 10, 2006