

THE U.S. POLICY ON OBAMA-PUTIN MEETING CANCELLATION IN MOSCOW IN 2013

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to identify the factors which influenced the U.S. in making a decision to cancel the one-on-one meeting between Obama and Putin in 2013. It is considered as a common knowledge that the U.S. and Russia are hardly getting along ever since the Cold War. Thus, this issue is very interesting to discuss since the meeting was supposedly aimed to discuss about the relations between U.S. and Russia. The researcher will try to identify the underlying factors with the theory of Decision-Making Process by Richard C. Snyder.

Keywords: U.S. Policy, U.S.-Russia Relations, Meeting Cancellation

Background

The rivalry between U.S. and Russia were hardly getting along with each other since the Cold War era. After the end of the Cold War, and the dissolve of Soviet Union, both U.S. and Russia were trying to maintain their relationship to a new dimension. However, it is undeniable that there are some highlights of events during the process that are reflecting the ups and downs of U.S. and Russia relationship.

Since the era of the World Wars until the end of the Cold War, U.S. foreign policy was focused on preventing the spread of Communism influence in its country and others, so called as containment foreign policy. However, by the end of Cold War and the collapse of Soviet, the U.S. policy switched and a new bridge between U.S. and Russia was established. In 1992, for example, a joint proclamation on U.S. and Russia new era of relations and partnership was issued in a meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The proclamation has brought some developments in U.S and Russia relations. The U.S. foreign policy changed from preventing Communism influence into promoting democracy, human rights, and free markets. (Wiarda, 2011)

The partnership between the U.S. and Russia is considered as world's most critical bilateral relationship in both expected and unexpected ways. In Barack Obama's administration for example, the relationship between the U.S. and Russia is reflecting evolution and deterioration¹ at the same time. (Pifer, 2015) In 2009 until 2014 is considered as the milestones for the U.S. and Russia relationship. It is known as the era of "Reset" foreign policy made by Obama administration towards U.S. and Russia relations. However, there are several highlight of events which reflecting the ups and downs of U.S.-Russia relations under the administration of Obama. According to an official statement from the White House, the events that happened during Obama's administration were not as what the U.S. expected from the "Reset" policy. Therefore, a further discussion on the sustainable relations between the U.S. and Russia should be conducted.

¹ Become progressively worse. (Oxford Dictionaries, 2018)

In 2013, Obama and Putin were scheduled to conduct a one-on-one meeting in Moscow. The meeting was aimed to discuss the progress of U.S.-Russia relations. Unfortunately, the meeting was never happened because the U.S. government cancelled the meeting that supposed to be conducted on September, weeks before the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg. The decision of the U.S. government was followed by the arrival of Edward Snowden in Moscow. Snowden is known as the U.S. most wanted fugitive for leaking NSA classified information. His arrival in Moscow became controversial for both the U.S. and Russia governments. The U.S. government attempted to extradite Snowden from Russia in order to bring him to justice for what he committed. However, the diplomatic attempts seemed to be failed since the Russians granted Snowden's asylum request. The decision of the U.S. government to cancel the meeting was such a disappointment for both U.S. and Russia. (Pifer, 2015)

Theoretical Framework

As a guideline for the writer to conduct a research and analysis as well as to prevent the occurrence of distortions of the discussion against the object of the research, the writer is trying to propose a theory as a reference to explain the motives behind U.S. government to cancel the one-on-one meeting between Obama and Putin in 2013. Theory is a point of view which explains the occurrence of certain phenomena. (Mas'ood, 1994) In this proposal, the writer is using and implementing the theory of Foreign Policy Decision-Making by Richard C. Snyder in order to describe the external and internal factors in the decision-making process of U.S. under Obama administration.

Decision-Making Theory by Richard C. Snyder

Generally, in International Relations, every state has its own national interest that can be achieved within the formulation of foreign policy. Foreign policy is decided by a nation towards another nation based on national interest and or national power which not only aimed for the state but also for the people. In order to achieve its national interest, a state should formulate the foreign policy through decision-making process.

According to Richard C. Snyder, decision-making process is aimed to acknowledge the relevance of a different decision-making process model towards a decision or policy, and if individuals or groups role in the process influences a decision or not. Different with other decision-making process models, Snyder proposed a more practical procedure of foreign policy decision-making which consists of internal and external settings. (Snyder, Bruck, & Sapin, 1962)

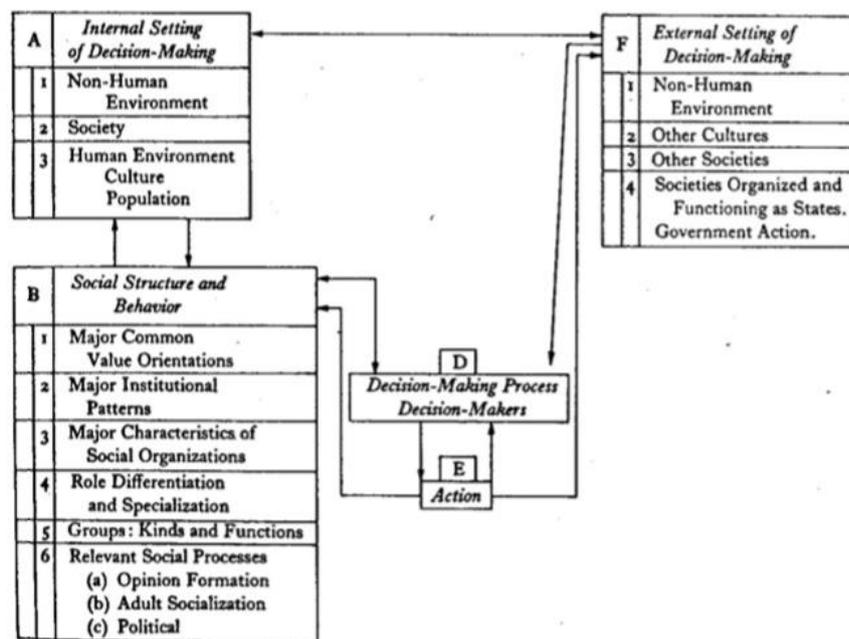


Figure.1.1
Richard C. Snyder Decision-Making Process Model²

According to the model of Snyder’s theory above, **external setting** means a decision can be made by identifying any factors outside of state territory, or known as international system in which diplomatic law, foreign policy, and other aspects are identified. There are several variables in external setting that might influence the decision-making process; non-human environment, other cultures, other societies, and Societies organized and functioning as states, and government action.

² Richard C. Snyder et al., Foreign Policy Decision-Making (Revisited) (New York: The Free Press, 1962): pp.201

In the case of the U.S. policy to cancel the meeting with Russian president, Russia appeared to be an important actor in the external setting of the decision made by the U.S. government. The role of Russia in the external setting of the decision-making is related to the case of Snowden granted asylum by the Kremlin. As explained in the background above, Edward Snowden is U.S. most wanted fugitive for leaking U.S. classified information. The decision of the Russian government to grant the asylum request has given a big influence on U.S. decision to cancel the meeting with Russia.

While, the **internal setting** in Snyder's theory means a decision can be made by considering the factors coming from the territory of the state such as domestic politics, public opinion, social values, and social structure and behavior. In internal setting, Snyder proposed to involve individuals and groups role as one of the considerations in the decision-making process. There are several variables in the internal setting that are similar with the variables of the external setting, while there are several additional variables of the internal setting and social structure and behavior that might influence the decision-making process; society, human environment (culture, population), value orientations, institutional patterns, social organizations characteristics, role differentiation and specialization, type of groups and its function, social and political opinion.

In order to describe the internal setting or factors that influence the decision of the U.S. government to cancel the one-on-one meeting in Moscow with Russian government, it is important to identify what U.S. government is facing in their domestic area, especially in the White House. As explained in the background of this proposal, there are some highlights of event that might have significant influence in the development of U.S.-Russia relations. In a statement, the White House Press Secretary, Jay Carney stated that one of the factors why the U.S. government decided to cancel the one-on-one meeting with Russia is the "lack of progress" of the bilateral agenda with Russia. As we know that under Obama's administration, the U.S. government was expecting to develop a better partnership with Russia by implementing the "reset" foreign policy. However,

according to the White House, the relation between U.S. and Russia is facing deterioration, not evolution. (The Washington Post, 2013)

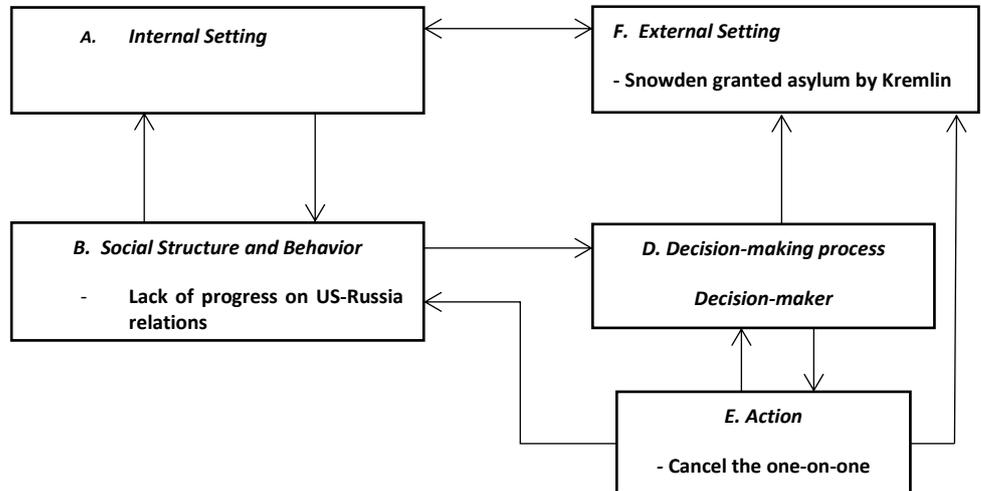


Figure 1.2
Implementation of theory

Research Methodology

This research is formulated in two methodologies: method of data collecting and method of explanative research. The method of data collecting is conducted through the library research and also through the media; printed and electronic media, internet, articles or journals and some reference books.

The other method is the method of explanative research; a research which studies the connectivity of cause and effect between two phenomenon or more. The explanative research is used to decide whether the connection of the cause and effect is true or false. Referring to the research question, the aim of the explanative research is able to explain factors of U.S. foreign policy to cancel the one-on-one meeting with Russia in 2013.

Results and Discussion

The policy made by the U.S. government under Obama administration to cancel the meeting with Putin in Moscow which was influenced by the disappointment of U.S. government towards the decision made by Russia to grant Snowden's asylum request. This chapter will also explain the disappointment of

the U.S. government on the lack of progress of its reset policy on U.S.-Russia relations due to the disagreements on arms control in Iran, conflicts over Syrian civil war chemical weapons use, and the disappointment of the U.S. for the expulsion of USAID from Russia and the violence against LGBT rights in Russia as another reason behind the decision of the U.S. in cancelling the one-on-one meeting.

A. Snowden Effect on U.S.-Russia Relations

As a response towards Russian government decision to grant Snowden's asylum request, in the same year, the U.S. government cancelled a one-on-one meeting between U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin that supposed to discuss the future attendance of U.S. government on the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia on September 2013. In an interview on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno", Obama stated that the U.S. is disappointed with Russia's decision to grant Snowden's asylum (Obama, 2013),

"It is important for me not to prejudge something, hopefully at some point he (Snowden) will go to trial and he will have a lawyer in due process and we can make the decisions. There been times where they slipped back in the Cold War thinking and the Cold War mentality. And what I consistantly say to them what I said to President Putin is that is the past."

According to his statement, Obama showed his disappointment towards the decision made by the Russian government by saying that the decision was based on "Cold War thinking and mentality". According to Obama, Snowden should be facing trial for what he committed. Edward Snowden is a former employee of the National Security Agency (NSA) whom charged with espionage by the U.S. due to his action in leaking NSA surveillance programs information. He was charged with death punishments or imprisonment for not more than 30 years or maximum fine of \$10,000 according to the 1917 Espionage Act. (Finn & Horwitz, 2013) Snowden then fled to Hong Kong along with a journalist, Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras, and a WikiLeaks activist Sarah Harrison to expose the secret information of NSA surveillance programs, and had transit in Moscow.

Unfortunately, he had to stop his travel in Moscow since his passport was being revoked by the U.S. government. While he was in Moscow, Snowden filed asylum requests to several embassies that located in Russia. There were at least 21 countries known to response towards Snowden asylum request, namely Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, France, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, and Venezuela.

According to The Guardian (2013), most countries rejected Snowden application since it was not filed in the country's soil. Those countries were Austria, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, and Switzerland. Other countries such as Bolivia, China, and France did not receive the application of Snowden's asylum request. While Brazil, Cuba, Iceland, and India rejected the request by not giving any response, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela were offering to grant Snowden's asylum if asked.

On the other hands, in Russia, Snowden applied his asylum request to Russia's Federal Migration Service and Russian Foreign Affairs. However, Snowden withdrawn his request after President Putin gave his statement that in order to grant Snowden's request, Snowden has to stop harming the U.S. In the mean time, the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry reached out to Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov to negotiate on Snowden's extradition from Russian soil. However, since there was no agreement on asylum between the U.S. and Russia before, Russia has no obligation nor authority to arrest or to extradite Snowden to the U.S.

There were two main factors that become the considerations of Russia's decision in granting Snowden' asylum. First, with the secret information of NSA surveillance programs in Snowden's hands, Russia could fulfill its interest in improving and strengthening its intelligence capacity. Second, since there is no obligation for Russia to arrest or to extradite Snowden to the U.S., Russia should consider to grant Snowden's asylum request. It is stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 that Snowden has the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other countries (UDHR, 1948):

Article 14 paragraph (1):

“Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”

and a state should not prejudge any reason of a person in granting an asylum request unless the person is committing crime against peace and humanity as stated in the UN Declaration on Territorial Asylum 1967 (UN, 1967):

“The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the grant of asylum by a State to persons entitled to invoke article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a peaceful humanitarian act and that, as such, it cannot be regarded as unfriendly by any other State,

Recommends that, without prejudice to existing instruments dealing with asylum and the status of refugees and stateless persons, States should base themselves in their practices relating to territorial asylum on the following principles:

Article 1

1. Asylum granted by a State, in the exercise of its sovereignty, to persons entitled to invoke article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including persons struggling against colonialism, shall be respected by all other States.

2. The right to seek and to enjoy asylum may not be invoked by any person with respect to whom there are serious reasons for considering that he has committed a crime against peace, a war crime or a crime against humanity, as defined in the international instruments drawn up to make provision in respect of such crimes.”

Thus, after many debates and consideration in the Russian government, in August, Snowden was granted a one-year asylum by the Federal Migration Service of Russia. Snowden was given not only the right to live but also to get a job in Russia since the Russian government agreed to process Snowden’s paperworks. (NBC News, 2013) However, the decision was found disappointing by the U.S. and according to an official statement from the White House, the decision of Russia to grant Snowden’s asylum became the reason for the White House to cancel the one-on-one meeting between Obama and Putin that supposed to be held on September. (Pifer, 2013)

B. Lack of Progress in U.S.-Russia Reset Relations

The decision to cancel the one-on-one meeting was of course disappointing for the both parties, especially for the U.S. administration under Obama who expected to maintain better partnership with Russia within its “reset” foreign policy. As what have been reported by the National Public Radio (2013), the U.S. government decision on cancelling the meeting came after a review which saying that “there is not enough recent progress in the bilateral agenda with Russia to hold a U.S.-Russia Summit in early September.” There are disappointments from the U.S. government towards the lack of progress in U.S.-Russia relations which shown from the disagreements and conflicts happened between both states.

According to a statement from the White House, the U.S. government is disappointed by the lack of progress of the development of U.S. and Russia bilateral agenda in the last 12 months.

“Given our lack of progress on issues such as missile defense and arms control, trade and commercial relations, global security issues, and human rights and civil society in the last twelve months, we have informed the Russian Government that we believe it would be more constructive to postpone the summit until we have more results from our shared agenda.”

(NBC News, 2013)

However, the review made by the White House was not only based on the progress of the relations between U.S. and Russia for the last 12 months, but also from the beginning of U.S. “reset” policy until Snowden effect. According to the official statement from the White House, there are lack of progress issues that influenced the decision of U.S. government to cancel the meeting, such as arms control, which is the disagreement between U.S. and Russia in the case of Iran nuclear proliferation and Syrian chemical weapon. There is human rights and civil society issue, which in this case is the expulsion of USAID and the LGBT rights issue in Russia. Also, global security issues– in this case is the leaking of NSA classified information by Snowden that became the consideration of the U.S. government in cancelling the one-on-one meeting.

According to the White House, the one-on-one meeting was cancelled because there is lack of progress in the U.S.-Russia relations. One of the aspects that become U.S. considerations in the review of the progress of U.S.-Russia relations was the disagreement between U.S. and Russia government on missile defense and arms control in Iran's nuclear proliferation and Syrian chemical weapon. Before giving its support for the sanction given to Iran by UN Security Council, Russia was known to be resistance towards the sanction. In Russian perspective, the alleged nuclear program of Iran was not a serious threat, since Russia has been giving supplies and assistance for the program.

After long talks among UN Security Council state members, the U.S. effort to break Russia's resistance finally resulting a breakthrough. Russia finally viewed Iran's nuclear as a massive threat for their country after there was a report on the range of Iranian missiles that would threaten Russian territory. Thus, Russia finally joined the U.S., France, China, U.K., and Germany in signing the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act in 2012. Russia argued that the use of military force against Iran in this issue was unnecessary. Russia then initiated to have a talk with Iran regarding the sanctions. This idea was getting positive responses from the 5 countries, including the U.S. In October 2013, located in Geneva, the first round of the discussion between Iran and P5+1³ about the proliferation was held. It was followed by two additional rounds until the discussion on the negotiation on Iran's nuclear program proliferation and investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in November 2013, an agreement on a Joint Plan of Action was made.

This issue was becoming one of the considerations of the U.S. government in making its review on U.S.-Russia relations especially in the era of Obama. Russia seemed to be more interested in the analysis of U.S. power in this issue than to break its resistance on giving sanctions on Iran. It has shown that the effort of the U.S. in managing a new dimension of its relation with Russia within a new mindset that is not so "Cold War" seemed to be not effective. The disappointment of U.S. government was added since the diplomatic talks proposed by Russia did

³ The five permanent members of UNSC (U.S., U.K., Russia, China, France) plus Germany.

not give any significant result even until 2014. The U.S. and its allies declared that the talk would be extended for at least seven months. (nytimes, 2014)

The U.S. was not only reviewing its relations with Russia on Iran's nuclear proliferation, but also in Syrian civil war. Ever since its uprising in 2011, the Syrian civil war has gotten tremendous responses from the international world, including the U.S. and Russia. While Obama and other European leaders called Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad to step down and issued a sanction on his regime, Russia backed Syrian government in the civil war on fighting against the opposition groups. As the war continued, Syria was alleged in the possession of chemical weapons. This allegation was getting serious responses from other countries, especially the U.S. since President Obama took any human rights issues seriously. In a statement, Obama warned Syria about the use of the chemical weapons (POLITICO, 2017):

"We have been very clear to the Assad regime, but also to other players on the ground, that a red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized. That would change my calculus."

However, it took a long time and effort for the U.S. and other countries to convince Russia to change its stance on the disarmament deal of Syrian chemical weapon. On September 2013, after the tragedy of Damascus chemical attack in August, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry conducted a talk with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva regarding Syria's chemical weapons disarmament. After three days of talks, both parties agreed to rid Syria of its chemical weapons within the same framework. (BBC, 2014)

The deal was involving the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to approve the procedures of the disarmament of Syrian chemical weapons. The U.S. stated that all chemical weapons material and equipment must be eliminated completely. If Syria does not comply the procedures, the U.S. along with France and the U.K. would conduct military actions against Syria. It referred to the UN Charter Chapter VII: *Action with Respect to Threat to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression Article 39-42* (UN, 2018):

“Article 39

The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Article 40

In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation, the Security Council may, before making the recommendations or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable. Such provisional measures shall be without prejudice to the rights, claims, or position of the parties concerned. The Security Council shall duly take account of failure to comply with such provisional measures.

Article 41

The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

Article 42

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

Based on the Chapter VII of UN Charter above, the use of military force is allowed if Syria does not comply the agreement and give threats to the international peace. However, the resolution to use military forces was opposed by Russia. The inconsistency of Russia in the decision-making of the disarmament of Syria’s chemical weapons has given the U.S. another reason to be disappointed with the progress of U.S.-Russia relations. The U.S. once again seemed to be failed to maintain the relation within the negotiation with Russia.

Another deterioration in U.S.-Russia can be seen from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) expulsion from Russia in 2012.

The decision was increased the tension between the White House and the Kremlin. USAID has been operated in Russia for almost two decades since the collapse of Soviet Union with the expenditures of more than \$2,6 billion for the programs on combating disease, protecting environment, strengthening civil society, and modernizing the economy. The expulsion of USAID which, according to Russia, has been considered as a threat for the political environment in Russia, is an example of the influence of the U.S. in maintaining its relation with Russia especially in the aspect of the promotion of democracy, human rights, and civil society. Although the USAID has been expelled from Russia, the U.S. would still maintaining its relations within other efforts. It was stated by the U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Victoria Nuland (RFERL, 2012),

“While our USAID physical presence in Russia is going to end, we remain committed to supporting democracy, human rights, and the development of a more robust civil society in Russia.

We will continue to work with those Russians in civil society who want to work with us. We do that in many parts of the world where we don't have (USAID) missions and we are looking now at precisely how we'll work this through, but we are committed to stay on the side of those who want to see a more democratic, more just Russia.”

The deterioration in U.S.-Russia relations in human rights and civil society development is not only happened in the case of USAID expulsion. The anti-gay law which introduced by President Putin was also being as a consideration for the U.S. government in reviewing the progress of U.S.-Russia reset relations. The law bans any promotion of homosexual norms in order to protect the Russian children and prevent the exposure of any norm which contradicted with the traditional norms of the Russian families. However, this issue has gotten serious responses from other parties, including the U.S., especially Russia would be the host of 2014 Winter Olympics. (The Guardian, 2014)

Based on the explanation above, the U.S.-Russia relations in Obama era did not fit the expectations from U.S. “reset” policy. The fact that there are more deteriorations than developments or progress has become the considerations for the U.S. in cancelling the one-on-one meeting between U.S. President Obama and Russian President Putin. The U.S. government tend to be disappointed by the decision made by the Russian government, such as opposing the resolution of the

use of military forces regarding the Iran's nuclear program and Syrian chemical weapons, expelling USAID from Russian soil even though it has been helping Russia for the last two decades, the gay propaganda law in Russia, and the decision to grant Snowden's a one-year temporary asylum.

Conclusion

The relations between the U.S. and Russia is known as the most critical bilateral relations in the world. Since the Cold War era, both the U.S. and Russia—then Soviet Union have been competing with each other to dominate the world. There are countless of events which represent how critical the relations between the U.S. and Russia. From the Cold War era, the post Cold War era— the dissolve of the Soviet Union, until the era of Obama as the President of the U.S.

In the era of Obama's administration, the U.S. implement a policy to reset its relationship with other countries including with Russia. The policy is aimed to establish better relationships with other countries within new dimensions, especially with Russia after the conflict of Russia-Georgia in 2008. In the beginning of Obama's era, the U.S. conducted a meeting between U.S. President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in April 2009. The meeting resulted a shared framework and interest that led to an agreement to bring U.S.-Russia relations to a whole new dimension. The agreement gave hopes for the progress of U.S. "reset" policy to be implemented. However, the progress was not fulfilling the expectations. During Obama's administration, from 2009 until 2014, the U.S.-Russia relations faced more deteriorations than progress.

In September 2013, the U.S. government cancelled a one-on-one meeting between Obama and Putin that supposed to be held in Moscow. The meeting was supposedly about the discussion on the future attendance of U.S. government on the G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. The decision of the U.S. government in cancelling the meeting was backed by the disappointments of the U.S. government after reviewing its relations with Russia, not only for the last 12 months but also for the last one period of Obama's administration. The White House reviewed,

that, the U.S.-Russia relations was facing a lack of progress. It is shown by the disagreements and conflicts that happened between U.S. and Russia during the administration of Obama. The first controversial disagreement between U.S. and Russia is the Iranian nuclear program sanction where Russia opposed the resolution on implementing the use of military forces if Iran does not comply the deal. The second disagreement is the Syrian chemical weapons elimination deal. It took a long time and countless negotiations of the U.S. and other countries addressing this issue before Russia agreed on the deal to eliminate all chemical weapons material and equipment. After the tragedy of chemical weapons attack in Damascus in August 21, 2013, Russia finally convinced that Syrian chemical weapons must be terminated completely. The agreement was achieved after three days of talks between the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva.

The third controversial event is the expulsion of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from Russia. USAID has to close its office and its programs in Russia after two decades of dedication— started from the end of the Cold War for the improvement of health by combating the disease in Russia, the protection of the environment, and the promotion of democracy, human rights, and civil society developments. The fourth is the introduction of anti-gay law by the Russian government under Putin's administration. The law is aimed to prevent any exposure of homosexual norms which contradicted with Russian families' traditional norms. It is also aimed to protect the health of Russian children from harmful informations. According to the U.S., the law promoted by Russia is violating the rights for the LGBT groups— human rights to be exact. The last but not least is the decision of Russia in granting Snowden's asylum request. Not only given the right to live in Russia for a year, Snowden also given the right to get a job.

It can be seen from the five events above that the U.S.-Russia relations in Obama era faced a lack of progress. The U.S. targets in establishing a more positive relation with Russia seemed to be failed. The U.S. felt disappointed by

the actions and decisions made by Russia. In conclusion, the decision of the U.S. government in cancelling the one-on-one meeting with Russia was made due to several factors such as the disappointment on the lack of progress in U.S.-Russia relations which reflected from the disagreements and conflicts that happened in the era of Obama and also the disappointment of U.S. government on the decision of Russia to give Snowden a one-year asylum.

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