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Office of the Press Secretary
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Background Briefing by Senior Administration Officials

Filing Center
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Riga, Latvia

11:40 A.M. (Local)

MR. SNOW: We will start on the record with a brief comment on the President's NATO experience on the trip.

This has been a very good trip with productive meetings with the leaders of Estonia and Latvia. In addition, the President came back encouraged last night from his working dinner with fellow NATO heads of state. They talked about the normal retinue of issues, most importantly, Afghanistan and on coming up with a coordinated way forward. Again, rather than trying to give you a full readout, I'll simply give you a characterization of how the meetings have gone so far.

Any other details?

MR. BARTLETT: I would say, having done these NATO dinners, NATO sessions for some time now, he was particularly pleased about the interaction, substance and dialogue from last night. As was said, last night was primarily a discussion about Afghanistan; a lot of today's talks will be more of the political nature of NATO, new members, things like that, how open NATO is going to be in the coming years. Those are the kind of thrusts of the conversations today. But last night, Afghanistan. There will be a communiqué that will report out about the way forward with NATO's commitment to Afghanistan. What we heard around the table was a clear understanding of the stakes in Afghanistan and the continued commitment of NATO being very consequential for the future of that country.

If you want a few comments for tomorrow, we can do that.

MR. SNOW: We'll do a little of that, and then we'll go on background.

Q Can we get a on-the-record comment on the Hadley memo, or do you think that the memo shows --

MR. SNOW: No, because, again, you're asking us to do a direct conversation on a classified memo.

Q But just on the reported assessment.