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Abedin, Huma < AbedinH@state.gov>

Sent:

Saturday, September 24, 2011 8:43 AM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: Medvedev proposes Putin for president in 2012 (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker

Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2011 05:42 AM

To: NEWS-Mahogany

Cc: SES-O

**Subject**: Medvedev proposes Putin for president in 2012 (AP)

MOSCOW - (AP) Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has proposed Vladimir Putin as presidential candidate for 2012, almost certainly guaranteeing Putin's return to office.

Medvedev made the proposal Saturday in an address to a congress of United Russia, the pro-Kremlin party that dominates Russian politics.

There was no immediate official reaction from Putin or the party, but the proposal brought a heavy round of applause from the congress delegates.

The proposal appears to end months of intense speculation over whether Medvedev would seek a second term or step aside for his powerful predecessor.

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