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Taken Questions

Office of the Spokesman

Washington, DC

March 26, 2004

[Question Taken at the March 26, 2004 Daily Press Briefing](#)

Russia: Banning Religious Activities of Jehovah's Witnesses in Moscow

Question: What is our response to the recent decision to ban the religious activities of Jehovah's Witnesses in Moscow?

Answer: We deplore the recent decision of Moscow's Golovinskiy Court to ban the religious activities of Jehovah's Witnesses in Moscow and to liquidate their legal entity. We understand the Jehovah's Witnesses will appeal the decision, and that the appeal will stop any immediate action to implement the decision.

We urge local authorities and the Russian Government to honor their commitments to respect the right of all faiths to religious freedom.

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[End]

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