President Barack Obama

By Patrick Martin

The Obama administration has launched a full-scale ef-
fort to appeal to Senate Rep-
ublicans to approve the New
START treaty with Russia. The campaign is sig-
nificant both for its politics—
lobbying for Republican sup-
port by invoking the Cold
War policies of Ronald
Reagan—and for the decision
to focus on this issue above all
others in the current lame
duck session of Congress, in-
cluding the impending expira-
tion of unemployment ben-
efits for two million jobless
workers.

The White House campaign began with an appearance by
Obama alongside former secre-
try of state Henry Kissinger—long linked to war
critics for two million jobless
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Democrats to approve the New
START treaty.

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Economic Realities Committee, Richard Lugar of Indiana. He
d also cited the concessions of the
leading Republican critic of the
treaty, Senator Jon Kyl of Ar-
izona.

Obama began his address by
declaring: “This Treaty is
rooted in a practice that dates
back to Ronald Reagan.” He
went on to support a rassive
modernization of US nuclear
warhead production facilities,
planning to invest at least $85
billion in that effort over the
next ten years—a significant
increase from the Bush Admin-
istration.

The amount of money ear-
marked for refurbishing Los
Alamos, Oak Ridge and other
facilities for making weapons
that could kill hundreds of mil-
rions of people continues to
rise from $16 billion to nearly
$18 billion.

Obama cited both these rea-
sons in his radio speech, not-
ing the importance of Russian
cooperation in relation to both
Afghanistan and Iran. But his
main focus was not on Russia
but on the Republican Party.

In the course of the five-
minute address, he dropped the
name of Ronald Reagan four
times, along with the names of
four former Republican secre-
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