

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Boris Yeltsin, President of the Republic of Russia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Boris Yeltsin, President of Russian Republic
Interpreter: Dimitri Zarechnak
Notetaker: Nick Burns, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: September 27, 1991, 12:23 - 12:36pm
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, Boris. How are you? (U)

President Yeltsin: I am on vacation and am beginning to feel and look better. (U)

The President: I don't want to interrupt your holiday. I sent you a message yesterday on a proposal I will make on nuclear weapons. I hope you have had a chance to look at it and would encourage your support so that I can mention that when I make the announcement this evening. (S)

I talked to President Gorbachev a little bit ago and I was pleased with his reaction. I just hope you received the message I sent to you. (S)

President Yeltsin: Yes, Mr. President. I read your proposal. If you remember, we had mentioned such an initiative when I was in Washington. And I had also mentioned it to Secretary Baker. I understand this proposal covers a broader range of issues. I would not go into great detail now but I appreciate this proposal very highly. I think that it shows a new level of trust between our two countries. I also think this is a very positive reaction to the changes in Russia and the Soviet Union. (S)

I would like to think that your idea is consistent with the present policy of the Russian Federation. I want to assure you that Russia will do everything it can to prompt the USSR to launch a related move to implement this initiative. Also, we have now abolished the Military-Industrial Commission which has been in charge of these issues. The new leaders in the Ministry of Defense are now more civilized and are inclined to agree in general with more cuts in nuclear armaments. They will also listen to what Russia says. I believe the new Minister of

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Defense is in favor of such initiatives. I believe the USSR will proceed along these lines. Your initiative is just a beautiful concept. (S)

The President: Thank you. I just wanted to make sure that you had seen my letter. I am pleased you are enthusiastic. I want you to know that other leaders, France, the UK, are also enthusiastic. (U)

President Yeltsin: I was very happy to see your latest message and initiative and am happy for our two countries. I believe your initiative is a serious step to eliminate totally nuclear weapons. I only hope your next initiative is designed to cease completely nuclear underground testing. I told you in Washington that this was of special importance for Russia. (S)

The President: We'll be talking about that. Thank you very much. Now get your well-deserved rest. (U)

President Yeltsin: Thank you. I congratulate you for this beautiful initiative. Thank you. (U)

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