

Foreign Intelligence Service  
of the Russian Federation  
Federation

To: First Deputy Chairman  
of the Government of Russian

03.16.1992 No. 187/150

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To: No. EG-P10-09648 from 03.12.1992

About considerations of the FIS of RF  
on the issue of elimination of  
nuclear weapons

The creation of a coordinating group on the elimination of nuclear weapons is a very timely and necessary step. In general, the main content of the government instructions and attachments [to the instructions] deserve all-around support. At the same time, it would be expedient to take into account the following considerations in the process of final approval of the proposed materials.

1. In our view, in our negotiations with the Americans we should focus mainly on the control and protection of nuclear materials. We doubt that it is advisable to emphasize the accounting of nuclear ammunition and materials (paragraph 2 of the instructions), especially considering our information that the Americans did not give up the idea of conducting a full "inventory" of our nuclear arsenal with the goal of subsequently placing them under American control.
2. As we see it, we might want to include an item in paragraph 2 of the instructions, suggesting exploring the possibility of engaging other leading Western countries, besides the United States, in cooperation in the sphere of elimination of nuclear weapons. Great Britain is very active in this sphere, offering us ground equipment to transport warheads and technological assistance in operating the supplied equipment, and also France, which expressed willingness to assume the coordinating role within the framework of the European Community to ensure reliable control over Russian nuclear weapons. Engaging other leading Western countries in this cooperation would undoubtedly increase the scale of assistance provided to Russia and also would push Washington toward signing truly mutually beneficial, and not just [tk: promotional-propagandistic?] advertising-propagandistic, programs of cooperation in the sphere of nuclear disarmament.
3. Taking into account the possible negative consequences for the environment of the procedures of destroying nuclear weapons and the pressing necessity of making Russian state policy more sensitive toward environmental needs, we believe it would expedient to include A.V. Yablokov, state counselor on ecology, in the Coordinating Group. Moreover, we might want to think about the option to exchange opinions with the Americans on the environmental

aspects of our cooperation, starting from, in particular, the main requirements of the American program "Complex 21," aimed mainly at ensuring the greater safety and environmental health of the military-industrial nuclear cycle.

Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation

Ye. Primakov

[Source: National Security Archive Nunn-Lugar Collection, obtained from the State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF)]

Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive