

*Green/*  
TALKING POINTS FOR YELTSIN MEETING

*12/16*

*Phumia*

INTRODUCTORY

-- Very grateful for this meeting considering circumstances.

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-- President sends best wishes for your speedy recovery; wants to be directly in touch when you are better.

U.S. Russia Relationship

-- Have only one issue to discuss--President's wish that we overcome disagreement in Budapest. Two points:

-- First, President wants you to know he remains strongly/personally committed to partnership with you.

-- He reaffirmed this publicly in Miami on Sunday.

-- He'll defend our policy and sustained economic aid in 1995 with Congress.

-- Trying to be helpful on Chechnya. ]

-- Second, he believes strongly we must fund a way to seek an understanding and joint agreement on European security.

-- Know now from Chernomyrdin/Kozyrev that there was a big misunderstanding on NAC decision.

-- Want to assure you our policy is for a gradual, open process, as President told you in September.

-- I know it could be complicating for you if NATO sought to move sharply forward on expansion in 1995 when you'll have parliamentary elections.

-- 1995 will be year of study only: can assure you there is no timetable or negotiations for membership.

Want to Propose Way Forward

-- U.S. and Russia must have closest possible understanding on this issue.

-- Have agreed on Christopher-Kozyrev talks to begin in January.

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\*--President wants work bilaterally (in response to By suggestion).

## Conclusion

-- In sum, President Clinton is determined to continue the partnership.

-- He hopes any doubts, problems can be handled privately, not publicly.

-- Wants common public line on my trip and on the good health of relationship--have worked out with Chernomyrdin.

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