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RELEASE IN FULL

Translated from Russian

Dear Bill:

did you see?

P. Kuznetsov

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I have carefully read your message of December 2. The question of NATO evolution has become today central for our relations and for European stability as a whole. That is why nothing should be left insufficiently discussed between us in this question.

The meaning of my message to you of November 30 should not be seen as declaring alert. In the days before the Budapest summit I wanted to stress the importance of coordinated actions of Russia and the United States on issues of reforming European security structures.

I welcome your reaffirmation of our September agreements. It is important though that these be adequately reflected in relevant multilateral documents. I was confident that this would be the case with the NAC communique of December 1.

I can not agree with your appraisal of this document as containing nothing new and unexpected. I am not inclined to dramatize the situation, but the NAC decision requires careful analysis and explanations to us.

The Russia-NATO partnership program will be concluded, there should be no doubt here. A.Kozýrev will explain this to his colleagues. But we need assurances that enlargement, rather than partnership, is not being emphasized now. The problem should be tackled as a large-scale one, there should be dialogue on adopting specific obligations and security guarantees for Russia and NATO which would correspond to the nature of radical changes in the European situation. Only in this context one could contemplate NATO enlargement, the alliance being new and transformed through partnership.

His Excellency
William J. CLINTON
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.

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DECL:OADR

I think you will agree that a candid conversation is necessary in order to have, as you propose yourself, a clear view of our reciprocal approaches and of the prospects. I propose organizing such conversation with your participation as well as with that of Helmut Kohl in January next year at a residence near Moscow.

As for Nagorny Karabakh, our understanding on preparation and adoption of a Security Council resolution which would "bless" the start of a peace-keeping operation, preferably - according to the Haiti scenario, undoubtedly, stays in force. This resolution will be a serious document and it will not be possible to prepare it in a couple of days. That is why we should look forward towards including into the Budapest decisions, as Kozyrev and Christopher talked about this in Brussels, language on the CSCE making an important contribution within its powers and in close coordination with Russia (not in competition with it) into both the negotiating process and forming under UN auspices multinational peace-keeping forces for Nagorny Karabakh. The details have to be elaborated later. Naturally, parallel to this work would be undertaken on the text of a UNSC resolution. By the way, as far as I understand, Europeans support such an approach.

Looking forward to our meeting in Budapest.

Sincerely,

B.YELTSIN

Moscow, the Kremlin
December 3, 1994