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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: The President's Meeting with Deputy Foreign
Minister Georgiy Mamedov of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: U.S.

The President
The Vice President
Warren Christopher, Secretary of State
Leon Panetta, Chief of Staff to the President
Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State
Samuel Berger, Deputy National Security
Advisor
Leon Fuerth, National Security Advisor to the
Vice President
Steve Pifer, NSC Staff (notetaker)

Russia

Georgiy Mamedov, Deputy Foreign Minister
Yuliy Vorontsov, Ambassador
Sergey Zamyatin, Special Assistant to the
Deputy Foreign Minister

DATE, TIME July 9, 1996, 10:05-10:20 a.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Welcome. It's good to see you. (U)

Deputy Foreign Minister Mamedov: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate your taking the time to meet with me. I appreciate it as a token of your feeling for the Russian people and the Russian president. I am privileged to give you his letter (hands over letter in folder). I hope that it's not a problem that it comes in a red folder. (Ø)

My president sends his best regards. He has already thanked you in the phone call and expressed appreciation for your stance during our election. It struck the right balance, showing no bias but giving us confidence. It was a big contribution for us. Had the president lost, we realize it might have cost you five percent in your own election. (Ø)

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This triumph of democracy gives President Yeltsin a renewed mandate. We want to move forward and reinvigorate the partnership with you and the United States, looking toward the 21st century. Looking toward your election, you know where President Yeltsin's sympathies lie here. We will act accordingly. (✓)

Our election was a democratic triumph, but now we must deliver on the promises made. You understand as a politician. First, this means building a sound economic base. I want to stress to you and the Vice President that the Vice President's visit to Moscow comes at a perfect time. There is a unique window of opportunity to raise the role of our economic interaction. We know we must do a lot, such as fighting corruption, to attract investment. (✓)

We also look forward to addressing traditional business. Foreign Minister Primakov looks forward to discussing with Secretary Christopher in Djakarta issues such as ABM, CTBT and NATO. We have already done some work with Strobe. We propose no pause in the relationship between now and the U.S. election. (✓)

The President: First, thank you for your personal role in keeping the relationship on track. I appreciate what you've done, and I appreciate the letter from your president. Among his most ardent supporters are those sitting in this room. (✓)

The Vice President is coming to Moscow this weekend, and I am pleased that President Yeltsin has reappointed Prime Minister Chernomyrdin to form a new government. We will try to be specific on what is needed to take the economic relationship forward. If you do so, I'll get personally involved in pushing investment. This is important: if we can build economic ties between our countries as opposed to just managing foreign policy problems, then 20, 30, 40 years from now our people will be working together. (✓)

As to what will be helpful between now and November, it is simply making practical achievements on our agenda: START II entry into force, a comprehensive test ban treaty. We also need to continue our dialogue on NATO. There will be other issues as well. We will have a better feel over the next month regarding the Middle East peace process. I am encouraged by President Yeltsin's message. What we need is an aggressive and specific agenda. We must keep moving forward. (✓)

I know that you see Ambassador Pickering. We keep him fully involved and are glad that you see him and have a good working relationship with him. (✓)

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I am excited about the prospects before us. We are thinking about what to do over the next four years if the election goes well. Chris, do you want to add anything? (Ø)

Secretary Christopher: Mr. President, the next election we face is September 14 in Bosnia. We need to make sure that it happens in a free and fair way. (Ø)

The President: I am very worried about Bosnia. It could come apart. That would be bad for me here but, more importantly, it would be bad for Bosnia and for the region. We don't want to get in a position where IFOR and Russia have to maintain an occupation of Bosnia for an indefinite period. Between now and November, START II, CTBT and Bosnia will be the most important questions. We just need to keep working together. (Ø)

Mr. Berger: I'm sorry to interrupt, but Yuriy will understand the demands on the President's time. (Ø)

Deputy Foreign Minister Mamedov: Yes, thank you very much for receiving me, Mr. President. (Ø)

The President: Thank you for coming by. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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