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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: President's Discussion with Yeltsin on  
Bosnia, CFE, Hyde Park and a Vice  
Presidential Meeting with Chernomyrdin

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
President Yeltsin of Russia (in Sochi)

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko  
Notetakers: Steve Pifer, Paul Weber, Deuce  
Martinez, Katherine O'Loughlin,  
Trey Whitworth

DATE, TIME September 27, 1995, 10:35-11:53 a.m. EDT  
AND PLACE: Oval Office

THE PRESIDENT: Hello? Hello, Boris?

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Yes, I'm here. Hi, Bill.

THE PRESIDENT: It's good to hear your voice. I hope you've had a good vacation. I appreciated your September 22 letter on Bosnia, and I wanted to visit with you on the phone for a few minutes.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: OK. I'm ready.

THE PRESIDENT: Our exchange of letters on Bosnia, and Chris and Andrey's meeting last night, and our work together in the Contact Group, I think, have really helped us to manage this difficult issue. But we have to continue to work together and take advantage of this opportunity to get a negotiated settlement. Yesterday's agreement in New York has moved things forward, but we need your help. You need to work with the Serbs, and we will work with the Bosnians to resolve the remaining issues.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Yes, I agree that we made a big breakthrough, and I agree that we will continue to work with the Serbs.

THE PRESIDENT: Chris raised with Andrey our preliminary thoughts on the implementation of a Balkan settlement, and he got his views on Russia's participation in that process. I know this is a complex problem. But I think we can find an approach that meets both your concerns and ours. This could be a real

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opportunity to prove the cynics wrong and to show that NATO and Russia can work together in an atmosphere of genuine partnership.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: OK. I agree, and I can confirm that what you heard from Kozyrev is something we jointly share -- I and he. Of course, what the Serbs want is that sanctions be removed, at least partially.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, of course. I'd like now to talk about CFE. In Halifax, you and I agreed to find a solution to the CFE flank zone issue that all parties would accept. I told you then that we would come up with a proposal based upon your suggestion of a map realignment. I've worked hard with the allies to put together a NATO proposal that I hope will accommodate your military concerns. We and the allies briefed your representatives on this last week, and I appreciate your government's initial response -- that this was a step in the right direction. I hope you can accept this as the basis for resolving the flank zone issue, instead of the "exemption zone" approach, which I don't believe will work with the other treaty parties.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: I got your point, and I thank you for your assistance, the assistance you promised in Halifax and have now delivered. I believe we can work together on this and reach an agreement.

THE PRESIDENT: I am really committed to this, and I will work very hard. But I think we need to resolve this by November. I hope we can really work to keep CFE from erupting this fall as a major political problem between Russia and the U.S. and the other treaty parties. I think that that is very important, that we resolve this by then.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Yes, I got your point, and I got what you're saying that -- November is a crucial month.

THE PRESIDENT: I understand from Chris that he and Andrey had a good talk on the agenda for our October meeting. I like the idea of a meeting at Hyde Park -- where Roosevelt lived. It will recall the spirit of our wartime cooperation as allies. I think this can be something like the Moscow summit, something that will strengthen our partnership. (Note: President Yeltsin cut in before this last sentence could be translated.)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Yes. I support this idea. It's a very good idea. This would eliminate the need for our going to Washington. We don't need any extra formalities, just good working meetings.

THE PRESIDENT: In addition to the obvious issues -- Bosnia, Russia's role in implementation, CFE, and European security -- I

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think we also should discuss nuclear materials security and next spring's nuclear summit.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: (Interjecting after the interpreter translated "European security") Also, NATO, NATO, NATO, NATO. This is one of the most difficult issues we will have to discuss. (After the President's translation regarding nuclear materials security and next spring's nuclear summit was completed) I agree. This will be one of the major items.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me make one other suggestion. Last spring, Al Gore's London meeting with Victor Chernomyrdin the week before our summit helped us to move some issues forward. You and I instructed them to try to work out answers on several issues -- like Iran's reactors and the security of nuclear materials -- and I wonder if maybe we should use this as a precedent. I understand Victor will be in Canada next week. Perhaps we could have Al go up there and meet him briefly at the end of the week, to review where we are on these issues and help prepare the ground for our meeting. What do you think about that?

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: OK. I think it's a very good idea.

THE PRESIDENT: OK. That's good. And Andrey will be here Thursday for the Israeli-Palestinian ceremony. I will have a little talk with him as well.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: OK. I accept.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. I look forward to seeing you soon and to having some very good things for both of us to announce. That would be very good. I hope you enjoy the rest of your vacation.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Well, you know half of my time is spent on holiday, and the other 50 percent is dedicated to work, hard work. I have ministers coming in to talk to me and to hold meetings. I just had a special one on Chechnya. There are a series of meetings and conferences. It's not just holiday, but I still have some time to spare. I thank you for the initiative of your call.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks. I'll see you soon.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: See you soon, Bill.

THE PRESIDENT: Good-bye.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Good-bye.

-- End of Conversation --

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