

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3714

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Russian
President Boris Yeltsin (C)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Boris Yeltsin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko
Notetakers: Larry Wright, Bonnie Glick,
James Smith, Peter Huggins, Jenny McGee,
Pat O'Shaughnessy, Ki Fort

DATE, TIME May 21, 1998, 10:41-1052 a.m. EDT, Oval
AND PLACE: Office

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, Boris. Thank you for taking my call. I know you have a lot of things going on over there. I hate to bother you, but I have to talk to you. (C)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Let's do so. (U)

THE PRESIDENT: I am working very hard to keep Pakistan from reacting to India's nuclear tests with one of its own, and so far have been successful. Now India is making the situation more difficult. In the last 48 hours, the Indians have stepped up their warlike talk on Kashmir, and the Pakistanis could be pushed beyond the point of restraint. I am very worried about that, so I called to ask you to call the Prime Minister of India at the earliest possible moment to stress the danger stemming from India's rhetoric and actions. I know other countries may press India, but Russia has a special relationship with India, and you have special stature there. I'm doing all I can to keep the Pakistanis from testing, but I need some help with the Indians. (C)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: O.K., I promise you, Bill, that I will immediately do this, but at the same time, I would like to ask

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by: Glyn T. Davies
Reason: 1.5 (b)
Declassify On: 5/20/08

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

2015-0782-M-2 (1.24)
3/13/2018 KBH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
2

you to do the same thing with the Pakistanis, because vis-à-vis Pakistan, I don't have the same kind of influence you do. (Ø)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I will do that. You may be sure I will do that. Also, we're looking at what can be done with the Security Council to discourage anything destructive on Kashmir. There is a chance for a presidential statement urging respect for the cease-fire and a resumption of dialogue. If that comes up, will Russia support that? (Ø)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: I will support you on this, Bill, and I repeat that I intend immediately to get in contact with the Prime Minister of India and have a talk with him. (Ø)

THE PRESIDENT: That's great. I just wanted to mention one more thing. We talked about this missile sanctions bill in our Congress. Some people are trying to bring it up today or tomorrow. I want you to know I am fighting it hard and if it passes, I will veto it and Sandy will call Kokoshin. You've got your opponents in the Duma, and I've got mine in the Congress, but we just have to keep working this together and we can do it. (Ø)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Okay, let's agree on the following: I'll talk now with the Indian Prime Minister, and I'll try to do all I can to persuade them. But at the same time, you do all you can to pressure Pakistan in order to provide certain assurances to India. I think I'll be able to reach some kind of agreement with them. I agree with you that acting together we must prevent this conflagration from flaring up. (Ø)

And one more point: Today I had a meeting with the leaders of our Parliament and the Parliament's main speakers, and we discussed the problem of START II. We reached firm agreement that on June 2 our Parliament will deal with the ratification debate and we hope it will succeed. (Ø)

THE PRESIDENT: That's wonderful news. Thank you. Thank you, my friend. Goodbye. (Ø)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: I embrace you, Bill. How did you spend your time in England? Was it good? (U)

THE PRESIDENT: It was great. (U)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Very well. I embrace you. (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE PRESIDENT: Goodbye. (U)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~