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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Yeltsin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Russian President Yeltsin

Interpreter: Peter Afansenko
Notetakers: George Chastain, Matt Sibley,
Sean Tarver, Robert Ford, Roger Merletti,
James Smith

DATE, TIME: June 10, 1999, 10:40 - 10:50 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

President Yeltsin: Good afternoon, Bill. (U)

The President: Hello, Boris. I just called to thank you very much for your leadership in bringing this conflict to a conclusion. The withdrawal has begun, the bombing has stopped, and now we are waiting for passage of the UN resolution, but I am looking forward to working with you there. (C)

President Yeltsin: Well, I know we have common work. It was most difficult to achieve that. I am sorry if in some cases I was nosy. (C)

The President: No, I am just pleased that it happened and I am looking forward to our people working together on Kosovo and I'm looking forward to meeting you in Cologne at the G-8. It's a great triumph for Russian diplomacy, and now we have to work to help you achieve your other objectives with the economy and your continuing efforts at political reform. I just want to say again, we couldn't have brought this to a good conclusion without your leadership and the role Mr. Chernomyrdin played with President Ahtisaari. That was the key to breaking this open, and I am very grateful and I just wanted to call and thank you. (C)

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President Yeltsin: I'm very glad about that. You know, it would have been a real tragedy for us if our ways had gone in different directions, because we have been working for many years. But I am very glad about the fact that we will be able to continue working together and cooperating. That is just great. So, I would like to hug and kiss you, and I am sincerely glad that in such a difficult situation our friendship wasn't broken. (C)

The President: Thank you, Boris. Our friendship will never be broken, as long as we are honest with each other. We had straight talks and we made it work, as we made it work in Bosnia, and I am looking forward to seeing you. (C)

President Yeltsin: Yes, I am glad to hear that. So, we will all just work in the same way if the same situation arises. (C)

The President: Good, and I will see you soon in Cologne, I hope. (C)

President Yeltsin: I am embracing you very, very strongly and really glad to share your happiness. (C)

The President: Thank you, Boris. I will see you soon. (U)

President Yeltsin: That's okay. See you later. Goodbye, Bill. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --