

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Russian President Yeltsin

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Boris Yeltsin

Interpreter: Peter Afanassenko
Notetakers: James Goldgeier, Carlos Pascual

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: June 18, 1996, 9:02-9:12 a.m. EDT, Residence

The President: Boris? (U)

President Yeltsin: Hello, Bill. (U)

The President: Congratulations. (U)

President Yeltsin: Thank you. (U)

The President: I wanted to call and congratulate you on the first round. You are well-positioned for the second round. Congratulations. It was an extraordinary turnout. We continue to support reform and reformers, and we want to see the forces of reform and democracy prevail in Russia. I've been saying that all along and I will keep on saying that. I just wanted you to know, Boris, that I'll be thinking a lot about you in the next few weeks, and I look forward to seeing you in Lyons. (Ø)

President Yeltsin: Well Bill, actually, I'm quite satisfied with the formula for Lyons. But I'm having doubts about going. I'm not sure I should go five days before the second round election. I'm thinking about sending Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. (Ø)

The President: You should do what you think is best for you. Everyone will understand. We'll organize the meeting around what's best for you. (Ø)

President Yeltsin: Alright. (U)

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Reason: 1.5(d)
Declassify On: 1.6, X6

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PER E.O. 13526

2015-0782-M-2(1.05)
3/13/2018 KBH

The President: Do whatever is best for you. The most important thing for you is to maximize your opportunities in the election. I've been following the changes of the last twenty-four hours and your bringing Lebed in. I understand what you are doing and hope it works for you. Also, I hope it helps with the continuity in our security relations, NATO, and especially Bosnia. And that it is beneficial for you politically. (C)

President Yeltsin: Well Bill, it is understandable in this situation that I had to join with Lebed because he came out third with 15 percent in the first round. (C)

The President: It makes sense to me from a political standpoint. I also hope it means continuity to our security relations. It looks like a smart political move to me. I'm pleased to see it. (C)

President Yeltsin: Yes, I hope the majority of his voters will go for me in the second round, which will mean victory for me. (C)

The President: Good. How are you feeling? (C)

President Yeltsin: Well, actually, three months of the pre-election race has taken its toll. I feel somewhat tired. You realize from your own experience that this is difficult. You are only just starting your own campaign; the heat is still ahead. (C)

The President: Yes. I saw the picture of you dancing with the girls in the band and you looked wonderful. I'm disappointed that no one sets up events like that for me in my campaign. (C)

President Yeltsin: (Enormous laugh). I got your point. (U)

The President: I know how hard you are working. You know we appreciate how much you're doing. The whole world has a lot riding on the elections. I know you'll keep going, keep the momentum going. (C)

President Yeltsin: Thanks very much, Bill, for your support. (C)

The President: Thank you, Boris. Goodbye. (U)

President Yeltsin: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --