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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Boris Yeltsin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko
Notetakers: Cindy Lawrence, Steve Brennan,
Peter Huggins, Ki Fort

DATE, TIME: September 15, 1996, 11:04-11:13 a.m.
AND PLACE: Residence

President Clinton: Hello. Hello Boris. (U)

President Yeltsin: Hello Bill. Greetings. (U)

President Clinton: It's nice to hear your voice. Hillary and I are thinking of you as you prepare for your surgery. I hope Naina is doing well. Thank you for the beautiful decanter set for my birthday. (U)

President Yeltsin: Thank you, Bill. As you know, there are some small misfortunes here with me. (C)

President Clinton: I know. I wanted to give you best wishes for your successful surgery and speedy recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I talked to Helmut and was glad to hear from him that you are brave and in good spirits. Boris, announcing your surgery was a bold stroke; it builds confidence. But most important, I wish you well. (C)

President Yeltsin: Thank you, Bill. I believe it would be a good idea if experts from the U.S. could come to consult for the operation. (C)

President Clinton: We would like to help you with that. We would be happy to help you in any way we can. The whole world

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would like to help you. I suppose we should know who to contact there if you want us to help with that. (S)

President Yeltsin: On 26 and 27 September here in Moscow there will be a scientific conference on heart surgery. Experts from all over the world, including the U.S., will be coming. I think that your specialists are here. I would be willing to consult with them personally if you don't mind. (S)

President Clinton: I think that's a fine idea. What I would like to do is to find out who is coming from the U.S. to make sure the best doctors are there to give you the widest possible choice. (S)

President Yeltsin: Okay, thank you. How are your elections, Bill? (S)

President Clinton: So far I am ahead. I just hope I can do as well as you. (S)

President Yeltsin: So, this is not yet the finish line. Let's just hope. We all believe in you and I hope you and I will work together soon. (S)

President Clinton: That is what I hope too. We have a lot to do together. I want you to know that during this period I have talked with Helmut and Jacques Chirac and we have agreed to do what we can to help you through, to keep things on track during your hospital stay, and do what we can to avoid creating problems for you. (S)

President Yeltsin: Thank you. Thank you, Bill. (U)

President Clinton: I will let you go back to your rest. I just wanted to let you know that we are thinking of you and make sure we've got the best folks coming over to your conference. Hillary and I are saying our prayers for you and hoping for the best. (S)

President Yeltsin: Thank you, Bill. Please convey my greetings to Hillary. We wish you every success in the election campaign. We all want you to win. (S)

President Clinton: Okay. I'll go to work on that. You work on getting better. Bless you. (S)

President Yeltsin: Okay, it is agreed Bill. Best wishes. (U)

President Clinton: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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