

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Putin of Russia (C)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President-Elect Putin

Interpreter: Irene Firsow

Notetakers: Elizabeth Rogers, Michael
Manning, and Robert WilliamsDATE, TIME: April 15, 2000, 3:04 p.m.-3:11 p.m. EDT,
AND PLACE: Air Force One

The President: I just called to congratulate you on the Duma vote. It was a great accomplishment for the security of our country and the international community, and I know you made a direct contribution. I just wanted to thank you for that. (C)

President-Elect Putin: Thank you, Bill. (U)

The President: And now that START II is behind us, I hope we can begin to work on START III, ABM, and strengthening strategic stability. I know that our people will be talking about this in the next few of weeks. There are a lot of tough issues involved, but I think we can find a way forward. (C)

Finally, the last time we talked, we agreed that a meeting before Okinawa would help us get started on issues related to economic growth and fighting proliferation. And I also think we should work together on other aspects of the Chechnya problem that we have been discussing. (C)

Sandy Berger and Ivanov talked earlier today, and we proposed to him some dates to meet in Moscow. Sergey is looking to see if these are convenient for you. I hope we can still meet in early June so we can work on these things and get as much as possible done this year. (C)

President-Elect Putin: Bill, thank you very much for all these good words concerning the ratification of START II. This process has taken seven years. I believe that both you and the First

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President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, made a very significant contribution to the normalization of the situation, making the world more secure. I read your pronouncements on that, and I fully share them. (U)

I absolutely can agree with you that this movement toward the ratification of START II is a way to a safer world. Of course, I understand that this year is an election year in the United States and progress on this will not be an easy task. But I am sure you will manage to do this. We understand the specific circumstances that relate to this task in the United States today. We are also prepared together as we did in the past to make our joint contribution to make a safer and stable world together with you. (U)

Today, Ivanov told me about his conversation with Mr. Berger, and he told me about the possibility of meeting you in June. These dates are quite acceptable, and I cordially invite you and look forward to meeting you in Moscow. I also think the subjects you mentioned will be of great interest to us both. We can also discuss other issues. In any case, I will be very happy to see you. (U)

The President: I'm thrilled by that. I really want to have a chance to see you. Despite the elections, I think we can get a lot accomplished. I will do my best to find a way forward. I like Moscow in June and will be honored to come back. (U)

President-Elect Putin: Thank you very much for that. I would like to emphasize that we understand the complexities and specific circumstances surrounding your position, and we are prepared to play together. (U)

The President: That's wonderful. I'll see you soon. (U)

President-Elect Putin: Good-bye, Bill. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --