

Exchange Mail

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TO	Weiss, Andrew S.	
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TEXT_BODY

Andrew - Attached is a draft memcon of the call this morning between SRB and Putin.

TRANSLATED_ATTACHMENT

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BERGER
RUSSIAN FSB CHIEF AND NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR
PUTIN

LOCATION: NSA SUITE

NOTE TAKERS: JIM SMITH AND DOUG BAYLEY

INTERPRETER: KYRILL BORISSOW

DATE/TIME: 15 JUNE 1999/1034-1113 EDT

NSA BERGER: Hello, Vladimir? This is Sandy Berger, President Clinton's National Security Advisor. It is good to talk to you.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: Good afternoon, Sandy.

NSA BERGER: I wanted first of all to simply establish a channel of communication as I had with some of your predecessors, so that you would feel free to call me, and I could call you from time to time if there are particular problems we could help resolve together.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: I am thankful to you for this, Sandy. And I would like first of all to convey best wishes from Mr. Kokoshin.

NSA BERGER: Please tell him I said hello. I hope he is doing well.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: I am in contact with him and he thought I should get in touch

with you.

NSA BERGER: I was originally calling on Saturday to talk to you about the situation in Kosovo. My impression is that the meeting that was just completed by Generals Jackson and Zvarzin was positive, and they made good progress. I think this is the result of a very good conversation that our two presidents had yesterday. If we resolve this situation at the airport, then we need now to move to find a long-term formula for Russian participation in KFOR. Secretary Cohen, I know, is going to Helsinki and meeting with Defense Minister Sergeyev, and I hope they can reach some understanding in time for the meeting of our two presidents in Cologne. From our standpoint, the important standard is for KFOR to be effective with unity of command and that the Russian forces be fully integrated into KFOR, in part to avoid becoming a target for the KLA. I want you to know, Vladimir, that we take the threat posed by the KLA very seriously. When we received some information from your government yesterday that there might be some plot to attack Russian forces, our people immediately went to KLA people, KLA officials, that we know, and said we had information about this and it would be totally intolerable. And it is my understanding we were able to avert this threat. I am very serious about having the responsibility of KFOR -- the demilitarization the KLA as part of its responsibility. That is what I want to say about the Kosovo issue.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: With your permission, I would like to make also a couple of comments. I agree with your assessment, first of all. I think the decisive role was played by our two presidents. And I do not think that the airport and everything connected to it will be a big issue. We do have joint experience like this in Tuzla, for instance, and we managed to find an acceptable solution there.

And I think in this particular case we could follow the same format. And the Russian side will be prepared to take certain obligations in terms of control, as in Tuzla, so that necessary functions would be played, taking in account the interests of all parties concerned. And I also agree that we must have joint command all the operations in Kosovo. And I also agree that the Russian servicemen unit should be integrated into KFOR. And again, in Bosnia we managed to find an appropriate solution. So here in this case we can have different options but basically we have the necessary basis. And we would also prefer that these issues should be resolved before the Cologne summit. I do not think that we are or should be in a position to create additional difficulties for our presidents, who already have enough burdens to carry on their shoulders. Now, concerning the KLA. I think the KLA is a threat not only for Russian peacekeepers but for all peacekeepers there. We know already of a certain incident when they attacked British soldiers. And here we already have not bad cooperation between our servicemen and those from the Alliance, they are mutually assisting each other. And I think that by the ... and it would be wrong to bring in a new notion of disarmament as Mr. Bacon from the Pentagon said. And our assumption is that the peacekeeping force must be there and no other force.

NSA BERGER: I am having a little trouble hearing the interpreter.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: And we very much hope that very shortly that these problems will be resolved by our two ministers in Helsinki and a proper solution will be found. And in any case, we do know that we need to cooperate with the Alliance and vice-versa.

NSA BERGER: Yes, I heard what you said. And I agree that we should try to get this resolved in Helsinki so that a recommendation, a joint recommendation, can

be made to the two presidents, which they can then approve on Sunday. There are many very important issues that our two presidents should talk about on Sunday, including economic issues and arms control issues, and hopefully they will not be preoccupied with this issue. On the KLA, Vladimir, I certainly agree that they pose a threat to all of KFOR, all the various nations. I did notice that yesterday the British arrested six people, who were perhaps KLA, who were acting in a threatening manner, and I think we have to respond very firmly to any threats. There is no reason now for anyone other than KFOR to have any kind of military capabilities in Kosovo.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: I would like very much that we do that jointly.

NSA BERGER: I think this is something that we should work out with the generals on the ground.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: Absolutely correct.

NSA BERGER: Let me raise, if I may, one other subject, an issue that Andrei and I worked on together. That is nonproliferation.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: Yes, please.

NSA BERGER: We were very pleased to hear from Prime Minister Stepashin's staff that your government supports the action plan that Mr. Galucchi and Mr. Kupchev reached on Iran missiles. It is, I know, an issue that is important to your government and is important to ours and can have a major impact on the health of our relations. For example, there is very important cooperation in the commercial space launch area which very much depends on our cooperation in the nonproliferation area. I appreciate that the FSB has an important role in the enforcement of Russian export control policy, and I simply wanted to let you know that I am willing to work with you on this program in any way you believe would be helpful.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: I am familiar with the content of the information given by Mr.

Talbott and also with that of a letter by Mr. Gore to Prime Minister Stepashin.

I think that those proposals may be acceptable in principle. For our part, we will be supportive of those proposals. We shall increase our control of exports

and also over dual technologies. We have already established a command control

system over 37 enterprises here in Russia. And the enterprises are key ones in

this area. And on the nonproliferation issue we have established at the Security

Council an interagency group which has been operating already for some time. And

we also have a plan of action, the Galucchi-Kupchev plan, and in fact we are

already embarking upon its specific implementation. We have certain difficulties

in terms of its legislative support for our part, but we are actively working

with our State Duma. And the State Duma has a second reading of this piece of

legislation tomorrow. In fact, there are no major opponents to this legislation

in the Duma. As regards some opponents, we are trying to work with them. Now,

Sandy, if I may ask you that could you do me such a favor? Could you make use of

your very considerable authority and influence so that the question of sanctions

does not arise all the time or only from time to time. You see, such threats are

not conducive to the promotion of the Russian-American dialogue. Should any

problems arise here, they would arise from lack of information. And should such

problems arise, we could attempt to solve those problems quickly maybe through

this line of communications that we have established with you, Sandy. In any

case, we shall be doing everything we can to abide by the obligations we

undertook in this area. This is it what I wanted to tell you on this particular

issue.

NSA BERGER: What you said is very encouraging. On the issue of sanctions, as

the government of Russia -- it is obviously preferable for your government to enforce a strong export policy with respect to missile technology to Iran, and it sounds to me like you are strengthening that enforcement and if the Russian government is enforcing its policy in this respect, that obviously diminishes the need for us to discuss sanctions ourselves. Vladimir, I am very pleased to have had this opportunity to at least meet each other on the phone. I look forward to some time when we can meet each other in person. I want to thank you for the time you gave to Strobe Talbott over the weekend and for your efforts to resolve the issues in Kosovo. I think that clearly the conflict in Kosovo puts some strains on our relations. Now that is over, and we can work together to build the peace and we can also focus our attention on helping build a strong Russia.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: I would like to see that very much and we shall be trying to achieve this. We would like that our joint work in Kosovo should not be any point of tension between us, but rather it should strengthen our cooperation there and also show our ability to work jointly. It should also increase mutual trust, especially between our militaries. May I also ask you to give Mr. Talbott the best of my regards. I learned a great deal from him while we were working together with him here. He really is an excellent diplomat. But I also hope that he could tell you about certain things he saw here in Moscow. And may I, Sandy, thank you personally and also thank the entire presidential staff. As well as all the people contributing to your position on the Kosovo issue. The gentle manner in which the issue has been discussed shows absolutely that he has very good advisors and assistants. And I also hope that we shall someday be in a position to have such a telephone discussion like today, but also to meet with you in person. Thank you very much for this conversation.

NSA BERGER: Thank you very much, Vladimir.

FSB CHIEF PUTIN: Goodbye.

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