

THE WHITE HOUSE
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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Putin of Russia (S)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

Notetakers: Deana Sutliff, Jenny McGee, Joel Ehrendreich, Don Gentile

DATE, TIME: July 10, 2000, 10:39-10:56 a.m. EDT,
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello. (U)

President Putin: Good morning. (U)

The President: Good morning, Vladimir. It's nice to hear your voice. I'm glad we could work out this call. (U)

President Putin: Thank you for responding right away. I do not have any broad-scale issues to discuss. I would like to thank you for the decision in relation to the debt obligation under Lend-Lease. We have been able to resolve this issue in spite of the fact the decision was blocked by Congress. Such a position is a symbol of the harmonious attitude of the American Administration toward Russia. I'd also like to thank you for your position concerning NOGA. (S)

Also, I would like to take advantage of this conversation to tell you about my recent contacts. I had a long dialogue with Jiang Zemin concerning our conversations about national missile defense. I believe that some of the concerns of China I have been able to alleviate. I emphasized your position that you want to ensure that there is good dialogue and cooperation with China on this issue. I do not know what to say about the recent missile defense test. I do not know if I should congratulate you or express sympathy. However, I'm sure we will be able to talk about it when we meet in Okinawa. (S)

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I read your letter of July 7. I would like to say a couple of words about your concerns about our cooperation with Iran. As for Bushehr, I would like to assure you that there will be no transfer of nuclear-related technology for weapons production. This is all under control. We are in close cooperation with respect to IAEA. (S)

You know that soon I am going to Beijing and Pyongyang. Our meeting is scheduled for July 21, and by that time, I will be able to inform you on what happened and what we discussed in Pyongyang. I am planning to pose to Korean leaders a question about the future of their missile program. We'll see what they will have to say, how they react to it. We can also work on the implementation of the agreements that were signed during your visit. I mean, our cooperation with regard to Afghanistan along two avenues -- cooperation between special services as well as between diplomatic services. This is about all I wanted to tell you. If you have any comments, I will be happy to listen to them. (S)

The President: First of all, I want to compliment you on the forceful speech you gave before the Federal Assembly about the challenges of modernizing Russia. Secondly, I am glad we could go forward with the debt rescheduling, but as you know, there was strong opposition in Congress over Russian credits to Belgrade, as well as on the Chechnya issue. I know Strobe Talbott will talk to Foreign Minister Ivanov about it next week, but I felt it was important to uphold the commitment we made in August 1999 with the Paris Club, and I'm glad we did it. (S)

On the nonproliferation issue, I am glad we were able to protect related Russian assets from the NOGA lawsuit so the HEU agreement can stay on track. I think it was clearly the right thing to do. (S)

With regard to Iran's nuclear procurement efforts inside Russia, I'm still very concerned about it, and I think there needs to be greater investigation of Russian firms. We are afraid the problem is getting worse, and the Vice President will be sending more extensive information to Prime Minister Kasyanov soon. I hope we can discuss it more, along with the missile issue, in Okinawa. (S)

I'm glad you're going to North Korea and China, and I look forward to talking to you about it. Obviously, we strongly support what Kim Dae-jung has done and how Kim Jong-il approached the summit and its aftermath. I hope you will encourage Kim Dae-jung to follow through on the agreement. I think we are already seeing some progress, and this is very good. Also, anything you can do to encourage making North Korea's missile moratorium more

permanent would be in our interest and in yours, and will contribute to stability in the region. I hope you will encourage them to do that. (S)

In China, I hope you can discuss their experience with accession to the WTO. The reformers there used the WTO process to promote the difficult economic decisions they had to make, the kind of decisions you suggested in your speech. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Okinawa, and I hope it will be a very good summit for you. I know our people are looking into what we can say and do there. I'm very much looking forward to it. (S)

President Putin: Thank you very much for what you have said. As for Iran and my upcoming visit to North Korea and China, I have taken note of everything you have had to say. We will discuss the Iran issue in more detail when we meet in Okinawa. I know about the concerns the United States has, and now you have given me some additional information about it. We can discuss these concerns. I will study this information very carefully. As for the moratorium on missile tests, it is certainly in our common interests and I will do my best to encourage it. I look forward to seeing you in Okinawa. (S)

The President: Let me say one thing in closing. We are starting these Middle East peace talks tomorrow, and we want to be in close touch with you. We may need your help. I want to stay in touch with developments. I will call you if there is. (S)

President Putin: All right, Bill. We are following the situation in cooperation with the Palestinians. I understand your concern. Thank you very much, Bill. I will see you in Okinawa. (S)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --