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# Clinton Presidential Records Mandatory Declassification Review

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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2050 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2050



POLICY AND  
PLANS



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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY & PLANS

SUBJECT: Memcon of 05 January SecDef Call to Russian MOD Grachev (U)

(S) SecDef placed an inaugural phone call to MOD Grachev on 05 January using the "Partnership Line." Mutual greetings and pleasantries were exchanged; SecDef expressed the hope that the "Partnership Line" would be used frequently and could serve as a symbol of increasing contacts between our defense establishments. Grachev confirmed that this was an important step forward in U.S.-Russian cooperation and expressed his regret that SecDef would soon stepdown. SecDef thanked Grachev for his cooperation over the past year.

(S) SecDef asked Grachev for his personal opinion and the likely public reaction to the upcoming NATO Summit. SecDef added the main focus would be on NATO expansion since a number of countries were pushing for NATO membership. Many people in the U.S. support NATO's expansion. SecDef stressed the Administration's continued support for its "Partnership for Peace" proposal.

(S) Grachev replied that he supported the basic idea of "Partnership for Peace" as an effective mechanism for maintaining security in Europe and expressed his hope that Russia would be among the first to sign up. He supported establishing a transitional period for cooperation between NATO and Central Europe. However, he was concerned with the growing criticism of the "Partnership for Peace" concept by politicians in Russia and the U.S. Congress. Such positions were based on a bloc mentality and unbased fears of the "imperial ambitions" of Russia. He hoped "Partnership for Peace" would be approved and common sense would triumph--expanded NATO membership was not the answer. Grachev voiced his support for an all-European process for security, noting that every country has the sovereign right to ensure its own security by means of political and military alliances. However, Grachev said Eastern Europe and the Baltic

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States should not speculate on the mythical Russian threat. These countries did not need to protect themselves by joining NATO. European security should be collective, not bloc-oriented, relying instead on all-European structures.

(C) On cooperative relations with NATO, Grachev mentioned the positive results already achieved: cooperation on peacekeeping, training for personnel at NATO courses, and a NATO naval exercise with the participation of the Russian Navy. It would be useful to conduct special seminars and courses dealing with the role of the armed forces in a democratic society. Grachev also said he would be prepared to meet in February with NATO ministers to explain the new Russian military doctrine.

(S) In discussing bilateral relations with the U.S., Grachev stated that the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation and Plan of Contacts for 1994 were a powerful impulse for expansion of ties. A great deal of work had been done on preparing joint peacekeeping training exercises. An exercise, involving 200 personnel on each side from the 27th Motorized Rifle Division and the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division, would be held in the Volga Military District in June or July. There would be three additional experts meetings to finalize exercise plans. SecDef mentioned that it was his understanding this exercise would be a field exercise. Grachev replied it would be like a command-post exercise but with the involvement of 200 personnel from each side, making it a field-like exercise. Both agreed this should be discussed during the upcoming meetings on the subject.

(S) Grachev also discussed nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction. There was room for expanded cooperation between DoD and MOD. Grachev suggested a thorough analysis and development of proliferation's military-political aspects. He also saw a need to set up a joint early warning system based on existing national early warning systems that would integrate this information into the national missile early warning systems.

(S) Grachev greatly appreciated the assistance given for housing construction for returning servicemen. Talks have lead to agreement to build 5000 apartments within 2 years. Grachev recommended that experts continue work on housing projects. Russia is short of funding, but has a good industrial base and qualified personnel.

(S) SecDef said that he and Grachev seemed to be in total agreement. and he thanked Grachev for his views on the NATO summit and

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"Partnership for Peace" program. Grachev responded that agreement meant that their work had been successful and the "Partnership Line" would ensure further success. SecDef said he looked forward to further conversations. Grachev ended the call by passing on holiday wishes to the American people.

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