

MIR MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 603				
Document ID: 9506798				
Row: 44	Section: 6	Shelf: 1	Position: 1	Stack: V

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9506798
RECEIVED: 13 SEP 95 17

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKDAND

DOC DATE: 13 SEP 95
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM PRES LUKASHENKO OF BELARUS RE CONDOLENCES ON TRAGIC
INCIDENT

ACTION: SEE 9506799 FOR FINAL ACTION DUE DATE: 16 SEP 95 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BLACKER

LOGREF: 9506799

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO



COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY: NSMEC

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9506798

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 BLACKER
001
001

Z 95091316 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
Z 95091609 NO REPLY NECESSARY
X 95091609 SEE 9506799 FOR FINAL ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9506798
RECEIVED: 13 SEP 95 17

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKDAND

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KEYWORDS: BELARUS

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INCIDENT

ACTION: DUE DATE: 16 SEP 95 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: BLACKER

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
BLACKER

FOR CONCURRENCE
PIFER

FOR INFO
HESLIN

COMMENTS:

No Response Necessary - INFO memo was
DONE TO LAKE 9/13 PKG # 6799

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

6798

*Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009*

September 13, 1995

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to convey to you herewith the text of the personal message from President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on the occasion of the tragic incident which happened in Belarus on September 12, 1995.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my own sincere condolences on this sad and tragic occasion and the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Martynov', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Serguei N. Martynov

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.**



**Прэзідэнт
Рэспублікі Беларусь**

Минск, 13 сентября 1995 года

УВАЖАЕМЫЙ ГОСПОДИН ПРЕЗИДЕНТ,

С глубоким сожалением я узнал о том, что 12 сентября 1995 года в результате авиационного происшествия на территории Республики Беларусь погибли 2 гражданина Соединенных Штатов Америки.

Примите от меня лично и от моего народа глубокие сожаления по поводу случившегося инцидента, повлекшего человеческие жертвы. Позвольте передать также мои искренние соболезнования семьям и родственникам погибших.

А. Лукашенко

Президенту Соединенных Штатов Америки
УИЛЬЯМУ ДЖ. КЛИНТОНУ

Unofficial translation

Minsk

September 13, 1995

Dear Mr. President,

I learned with a feeling of deep regret that two citizens of the United States of America died on the territory of the Republic of Belarus on September 12, 1995 in an air incident.

Please accept, on my own behalf and on behalf of my people, deep condolences on the occasion of the incident which lead to the loss of life. Please convey also my sincere condolences to the families and relatives of those who perished.

/signed/

Aleksandr Lukashenko

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States**

MIR MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 603				
Document ID: 9506799				
Row: 44	Section: 6	Shelf: 1	Position: 1	Stack: v

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	For the President from Anthony Lake. Subject: Condolence Letter from Belarus President Lukashenko. Record ID: 9506799. (2 pages)	09/14/1995	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002. memo	For Anthony Lake from Carlos Pascual. Subject: Condolence Letter from Belarus President Lukashenko. Record ID: 9506799. (1 page)	09/13/1995	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Records Management
 [Lukashenko]
 OA/Box Number: 603

FOLDER TITLE:

9506799

2016-0223-M

vz4679

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LAKE

DOC DATE: 14 SEP 95
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS HS

PERSONS: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

SUBJECT: CONDOLENCE LTR FM BELARUS PRES LUKASHENKO

ACTION: NOTED BY PRESIDENT DUE DATE: 16 SEP 95 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL LOGREF:

FILES: PA NSCP: CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
BLACKER
NSC CHRON
PASCUAL



DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By *[initials]* NARA, Date 2/4/2017
2016-0723-14

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP CLOSED BY: NSGP DOC 2 OF 2

ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 LAKE
002 PRESIDENT
002

Z 95091320 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION
Z 95091410 FOR SIGNATURE
X 95091517 NOTED BY PRESIDENT

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

002 950914
002 950914

VICE PRESIDENT
WH CHIEF OF STAFF

— rec'd 9/14 8aw
 National Security Council
 The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 6799
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG APB A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Harmon	_____	_____	_____
Dohse	<u>1</u>	<u>D</u>	_____
Sens	_____	_____	_____
Soderberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	<u>2</u>	<u>at</u>	_____
Lake	<u>3</u>	Natl Sec Advisor has seen	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>APB 9/14</u>	<u>D PRES</u>
Records Mgt. →	<u>5</u>	<u>APB 9/15</u>	<u>N</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

10 SEP 16 11 07

Exec Sec Office has diskette WSP

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 8799
9/15/95

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON
September 14, 1995

95 SEP 14 A10:40

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Condolence Letter from Belarus President
Lukashenko

The attached letter from President Lukashenko expresses his personal and political condolences on the death of two U.S. citizens whose hot-air balloon was downed in southwestern Belarus on the night of September 12/13.

Fifteen piloted balloons started a race from Switzerland on September 9. The association sponsoring the event had filed and cleared flight plans with all effected European countries, including Belarus. A unit of the Belarusian air force intercepted one of the balloons as it entered that country's airspace. A short time later, a Belarusian helicopter was dispatched to the scene; according to officials in Minsk, the helicopter crew attempted to establish contact with the balloon but to no avail. As the balloon drifted over a military installation, air defense officials issued the command to shoot it down. A search team found the two dead Americans as they examined the wreckage. Two other balloons with U.S. citizens on board landed safely at two different Belarusian sites.

Belarus attributes the 24-hour delay in notifying Embassy Minsk to Lukashenko's absence from the country until late September 12. We are concerned that the delay stemmed from an attempt to construct a story around the events; our intelligence indicates that, within a total of two minutes, the helicopter located and identified the balloon, received instructions to shoot, and confirmed destroying it.

Chip Blacker and State's Jim Collins stressed to Belarusian Ambassador Martynov on September 13 that to avoid complicating bilateral relations Belarus must be forthright in detailing the actual sequence of events and assume promptly appropriate responsibility for the loss of life. Anything less, they stressed, will recall to American minds the Soviet mishandling of the downing of Korean Airlines Flight 007 in 1983. Our Charge in Minsk conveyed a very similar message to Deputy Foreign Minister Tsepkala.

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2016-0223-m (1.01)
3/6/2019 KBH

PHOTOCOPY
WJC HANDWRITING

~~TOP SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

2

~~TOP SECRET~~

As of 6:00 p.m. EDT September 13, the families had not been notified, pending final confirmation of the identity of the two deceased.

Attachments

Tab A Letter from Ambassador Martynov

Tab B Condolence Letter from President Lukashenko

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

*Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009*

September 13, 1995

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to convey to you herewith the text of the personal message from President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on the occasion of the tragic incident which happened in Belarus on September 12, 1995.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my own sincere condolences on this sad and tragic occasion and the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Martynov', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Serguei N. Martynov

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.**

Unofficial translation

Minsk

September 13, 1995

Dear Mr. President,

I learned with a feeling of deep regret that two citizens of the United States of America died on the territory of the Republic of Belarus on September 12, 1995 in an air incident.

Please accept, on my own behalf and on behalf of my people, deep condolences on the occasion of the incident which lead to the loss of life. Please convey also my sincere condolences to the families and relatives of those who perished.

/signed/

Aleksandr Lukashenko

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States**



**Прэзідэнт
Рэспублікі Беларусь**

Минск, 13 сентября 1995 года

УВАЖАЕМЫЙ ГОСПОДИН ПРЕЗИДЕНТ,

С глубоким сожалением я узнал о том, что 12 сентября 1995 года в результате авиационного происшествия на территории Республики Беларусь погибли 2 гражданина Соединенных Штатов Америки.

Примите от меня лично и от моего народа глубокие сожаления по поводу случившегося инцидента, повлекшего человеческие жертвы. Позвольте передать также мои искренние соболезнования семьям и родственникам погибших.

А. Лукашенко

Президенту Соединенных Штатов Америки
УИЛЬЯМУ ДЖ. КЛИНТОНУ

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

6799

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

September 13, 1995

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: COIT BLACKER *CSB*

FROM: CARLOS PASCUAL *CSB MCP*

SUBJECT: Condolence Letter from Belarus President
Lukashenko

The memorandum at Tab I summarizes current information on events surrounding the killing of two U.S. citizens when their hot air balloon was shot down in western Belarus. Tab A to the memorandum is a letter from Ambassador Martynov to the President. Tab B is a letter from President Lukashenko conveying his condolences.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Information Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letter from Ambassador Martynov to the President
Tab B Letter from President Lukashenko to the President

**DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526**

2016-0223-M (1.03)

3/6/2019 KBH

~~TOP SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~TOP SECRET~~

MIR MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 1120				
Document ID: 9606141				
Row: 45	Section: 1	Shelf: 9	Position: 2	Stack: V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	To Steve from Carlos. (1 page)	02/13/1997	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002. memo	For the President from Anthony Lake. Subject: Response to Belarusian President Lukashenko. Record ID: 9606141. (2 pages)	10/11/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
003. draft	Message to Belarusian President Lukashenko. (2 pages)	10/11/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
004. letter	Duplicate of 006. (2 pages)	09/10/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
005. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [Belarusian] (3 pages)	08/19/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
006. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [English Translation] (1 page)	08/19/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Records Management
 [Lukashenko]
 OA/Box Number: 1120

FOLDER TITLE:

9606141

2016-0223-M

vz4680

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9606141
RECEIVED: 11 SEP 96 16

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DOC DATE: 19 AUG 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM PRES LUKASHENKO OF BELARUS RE SOCIAL ECONOMIC &
POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN BELARUS

ACTION: NFAR PER PIFER DUE DATE: 14 SEP 96 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

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OPENED BY: NSGP CLOSED BY: NSDRS DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9606141

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 PASCUAL
001

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 96091116 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 97021416 NFAR PER PIFER

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DOC DATE: 19 AUG 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM PRES LUKASHENKO OF BELARUS RE SOCIAL ECONOMIC &
POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN BELARUS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 14 SEP 96 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
PASCUAL

FOR CONCURRENCE
PIFER

FOR INFO
BASS
HESLIN
MILLISON
SENS
SODERBERG

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSGP

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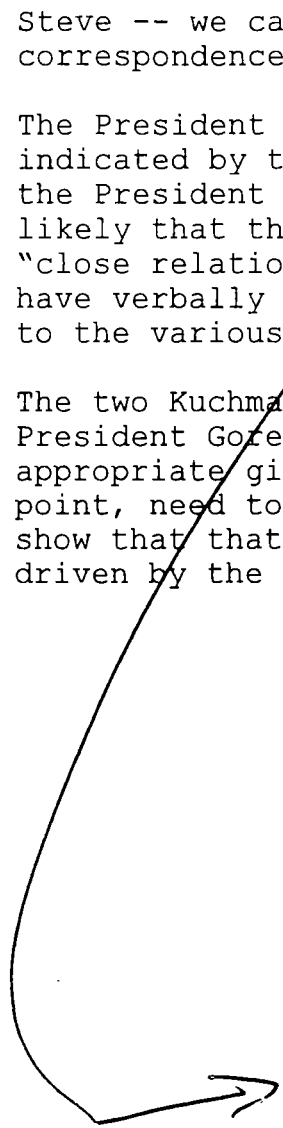
DOC 1 OF 1

Steve -- we can close out all the outstanding presidential correspondence with Kuchma and Lukashenko.

The President received three letters from Lukashenko, not two as indicated by the tracking system. We have agreed with State that the President should not respond to these letters as it is highly likely that they would be misused by Lukashenko to portray a "close relationship" with the President of the United States. We have verbally communicated to Belarusian officials our responses to the various policy issues they have raised with us.

The two Kuchma letters have been addressed by a letter from Vice President Gore to Kuchma (which I have attached). This is appropriate given the new Kuchma-Gore Commission. We, at some point, need to gin up a letter from the President to Kuchma to show that that relationship still exists, but it should not be driven by the Kuchma letters we have received.

Carlos



Exec Sec -

As per above, please close Lukashenko letter files (#5066, #6141, #7910) - No response appropriate at this time.

Also as per above, please close Kuchma letter files (#7061, #0954) - VP message has answered.

Thanks.

Steve Prid
2/13/97

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

October 11, 1996

Not Sent

don't send

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: STEVE PIFER

FROM: CARLOS PASCUAL

SUBJECT: Presidential Response to Belarusian President Lukashenko

The memorandum at Tab I recommends a Presidential message to President Lukashenko of Belarus in response to two letters, one on a nuclear weapons free zone, the other on recent political developments in Belarus.

Concurrence by: Dan Fried, John Schmidt, Ki Fort

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

- Tab I Memorandum to the President
- Tab A Message to Lukashenko
- Tab B Incoming Letters

9/11/96

Secretariat:

This was faxed to RUE Directorate on 9/10/96.

Please put into system & return to Carlos Pascual for action.

Helen

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2014-0223-M (1.05)
3/6/2019 KBH

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Response to Belarusian President Lukashenko

Purpose

To respond to two letters from President Lukashenko.

Background

Lukashenko has written to you twice, once to propose the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone in Europe, the second time to rationalize his increased authoritarianism as a necessary step for democracy.

Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. Both Belarus and Ukraine have publicly advocated a nuclear weapons free zone in Europe, underscoring their decision to relinquish nuclear weapons on their territory. Ukraine completed all of its nuclear transfers; Belarus still has eighteen SS-25s scheduled for removal this year. NATO Secretary General Solana has written to the Belarusian and Ukrainian foreign ministers, highlighting NATO's reduced nuclear arsenal and the conclusions of the NATO enlargement study ("no a priori requirement" for deployments in new members). Your letter to Lukashenko folds Solana's points into a broader explanation of our strategy for peace and stability in an undivided Europe.

Constitutional Authoritarianism. Since August, Lukashenko and the Belarusian parliament have been pitted in conflict over Lukashenko's proposed referendum to amend the constitution. Lukashenko wants to extend his term to ten years while creating a new upper parliamentary chamber stacked with presidential appointees. He has silenced press coverage of the opposition and, earlier in the spring, he violently suppressed public demonstrations against his integration treaty with Russia. Lukashenko's economic policies have taken Belarus to the brink of financial crisis.

All attempts at compromise have failed -- despite good faith efforts by parliamentary speaker Sharetsky and attempts by Chernomyrdin and Yeltsin to reign Lukashenko in. Most recently, a parliamentary petition purportedly endorsing most of Lukashenko's proposals fell apart when an alleged consensus failed the test of a parliamentary vote. The head of the constitutional court called the compromise "a castration of the parliament and the constitutional court." The next round of battle will likely be the weekend of October 18, when Lukashenko will convene a Soviet-style Congress to take his views directly to the people. The opposition has called for its own demonstration the same day. If the past is any indication, we may see violence.

Your letter to Lukashenko seeks to get him to think again before taking actions the weekend of October 18 that will further isolate Belarus from the international community. Before your letter is delivered, the State Department will issue a strong statement on principles of democracy and human rights which we expect Belarus to follow. Our experience with Lukashenko suggests that he will not listen to direct criticism. Your letter appeals to Lukashenko to adhere to the democratic principles Belarus has espoused as a member of OSCE, while leaving no doubt that the current course of political suppression will simply entrench Belarus' isolation.

We considered the risk of your letter to Lukashenko being miscast to the public and whether to hold off your response until after the events of October 18. I am recommending that you send your letter because of the overriding need to try to steer Lukashenko away from increased confrontation. **(NOTE: IF WE SEND THIS FORWARD, STEVE NEEDS TO TALK THIS THROUGH WITH STROBE!!!)**

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the message to President Lukashenko at Tab A.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachments

- Tab A Message to Lukashenko
- Tab B Incoming Letters

AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE SHOULD PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO PRESIDENT LUKASHENKO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.

(BEGIN TEXT)

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTERS REGARDING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BELARUS AND THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS LED THE WEST IN SUPPORTING THE HISTORIC TRANSITION FROM COMMUNISM TO MARKET DEMOCRACY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ELIMINATE THE IMPOSED COLD WAR DIVISIONS OF THE REGION TO CREATE A NEW, UNITED EUROPE. THIS VISION OF UNITY UNDERLIES AMERICA'S SUPPORT FOR NATO ENLARGEMENT. JUST AS NATO ANCHORED WESTERN EUROPEAN STABILITY AFTER WORLD WAR II, SO A GROWING AND EVOLVING NATO -- OPEN TO ALL EMERGING DEMOCRACIES WHICH SHARE OUR VALUES -- CAN PROVE A BASIS FOR EUROPEAN STABILITY AND INTEGRATION IN THE POST-COLD WAR ERA.

CAREFUL ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENTS. WE APPLAUD BELARUS' DECISION TO RENOUNCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO ACCEDE TO THE NPT AS A NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. AS DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT RECENTLY REVIEWED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SENKO, NATO IS ALSO CHANGING. NATO HAS REDUCED ITS LAND-BASED NUCLEAR STOCKPILE BY OVER 80 PERCENT SINCE 1991, AND FURTHER REDUCTIONS ARE COMING. LOOKING AHEAD, NATO'S STUDY ON ENLARGEMENT CONCLUDED THAT "THERE IS NO A PRIORI REQUIREMENT FOR THE STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON THE TERRITORY OF NEW MEMBERS." IN THIS CONTEXT, THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT SEE A NEED FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE IN EUROPE.

I WOULD ALSO STRESS THAT THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRACTICES OF EACH EUROPEAN COUNTRY, INCLUDING BELARUS, ARE AS CRUCIAL TO REGIONAL STABILITY AS EUROPE'S EVOLVING SECURITY ARCHITECTURE. ONE OF THE KEY CONCLUSIONS OF OSCE'S DECEMBER 1994 BUDAPEST CONFERENCE, IN WHICH WE BOTH PARTICIPATED, WAS THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF PEACE AND SECURITY." THE CONFERENCE ALSO AFFIRMED THAT "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A HUMAN RIGHT AND A BASIC COMPONENT OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY," AND THAT "INDEPENDENT AND PLURALISTIC MEDIA ARE ESSENTIAL TO A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY AND ACCOUNTABLE SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT."

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME FOR BELARUS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT TO THESE PRINCIPLES. THE UNITED STATES AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT BELARUS' MOVEMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classified by Anthony Lake
Reason: 1.5(b), (d)
Declassify on: 10/11/96

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2016-0223-M (1.06)
3/6/2019 KBH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AWAY FROM THE COMMUNITY OF EUROPEAN NATIONS. IF BELARUS CONTINUES ITS CURRENT COURSE, THE ISOLATION OF YOUR NATION WILL BE FURTHER ENTRENCHED. POLITICAL SUPPRESSION AND CONFLICT WILL MAKE MATTERS WORSE.

I HOPE BELARUS WILL TAKE PROMPT, MEANINGFUL STEPS TO (RE)AFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE.

SINCERELY,

BILL CLINTON

(END TEXT)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

6141

**Пасольства Рэспублікі
Беларусь
у Злучаных Штатах Амерыкі**



**Embassy of the Republic
of Belarus
to the United States of America**

1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: (202) 986-1604 • Fax: (202) 986-1805

September 6, 1996

Dear Mr. Pifer,

Please find enclosed herewith the original personal letter from President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko to President of the United States Bill Clinton.

Please accept, Mr. Pifer, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

**Igor F. Shmygov
Charge d'Affaires a.i.**

**Mr. Steve Pifer
Special Assistant to the President and
Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian
and Eurasian Affairs
National Security Council
Washington, D.C. 20504**

Unofficial translation
Minsk
August 19, 1996

Dear Mr. President,

My addressing You personally has been dictated by my desire to inform You and, through You, the American people of social, economic and political transformation in the Republic of Belarus. I do this being convinced in our mutual interest in developing relations of partnership and cooperation between our states.

I wish to inform You that the Republic of Belarus continues to adhere to the course of economic reform, democratic transformation and the setting up of a state based on law which guarantees human rights, personal freedoms and security for its citizens.

Belarus is one of a few CIS states which managed, despite objective difficulties, to ensure civil accord, stability and peace. However, moving along the road of reform, our country has also encountered significant difficulties. It has not been possible to work out a coordinated approach of political parties towards a variety of problems of principle. In such cases we resort to a referendum as basic democratic constitutional means of ascertaining the opinion of the people.

This time, constitutional reform is submitted as a referendum issue. Our Constitution, adopted in 1994, has a number of shortcomings. Irregularities in the distribution of powers between executive, legislative and judicial branches were pointed out back in 1995 as a main drawback during the reviewing of the Constitution by the Council of Europe.

Having analyzed the difficulties which came up in the course of democratic transformation of the state institutions and having carefully studied the practice of parliamentary democracy in the countries of Western and Eastern Europe, the United States, Canada and other countries, we have become convinced in the necessity of introducing such amendments into the Constitution which would provide Belarus with an opportunity to have a professional Parliament. This will bring an internal structure of the Parliament and its functions into accord with new democratic institutions of our society.

His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America

Of course, I will make no secret of the fact that the idea to hold a referendum has attracted complicated reaction from various strata of our society. There are public movements and forces which wish to use the existing situation to present in a false light both these measures and the very essence of the referendum.

Proceeding from the above, I consider it my duty to inform You of the genuine purpose of the constitutional reform and to confirm allegiance of the Republic of Belarus and my own allegiance of the nation's President to the policies of reform, democratic transformation, peaceful intentions in foreign policy and strict adherence to observing international legal norms.

I wish to draw Your attention to the fact, that since the proclamation of independence in 1991 the Republic of Belarus has repeatedly confirmed its unconditional adherence to common human values and international standards in the area of human rights. This is exactly what the forthcoming constitutional transformation in our country is aimed at. Availing myself of this opportunity, I also wish to note that we are sincerely interested in expanding and deepening comprehensive cooperation between our states and in establishing political dialogue at the highest level.

I believe, that during Your staying in the Republic of Belarus You have become convinced in our people's striving for peace, equal partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with other states. The Republic of Belarus seeks to understand the problems of other nations and peoples. But it also counts on others to try and understand its own problems as well.

I will be grateful to You, Mr. President, for understanding and support of our policies and actions. The people of Belarus and I as the President will never forget this and will highly appreciate it as very important at a difficult time of transition.

I wish to assure You, that this referendum will be held under strict observation of legislation and with international practice taken into account. We will invite international observers and will create all conditions for their work. Our Embassy in the United States is ready to provide exhaustive information on all issues of the forthcoming referendum, which might be of interest to the American public.

Let me wish prosperity to the people of the United States of America and to You personally.

Sincerely,

/ signed /

Alexander Lukashenko



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the system, &
SP

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
Phone: (202) 986-1604 Fax: (202) 986-1805

FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

TO Ms. Dora Kale
FAX # (202) 456-9160
FROM Valentin Rybarou
DATE Sept. 10, 1996
No OF PAGES 7 (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

Re:

MESSAGE

Dear Dora,
I will deliver the original letter
tomorrow.

Regards,
Valentin

**Пасольства Рэспублікі
Беларусь
у Злучаных Штатах Амерыкі**



**Embassy of the Republic
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to the United States of America**

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September 6, 1996

Dear Mr. Pifer,

Please find enclosed herewith the original personal letter from President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko to President of the United States Bill Clinton.

Please accept, Mr. Pifer, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Igor F. Shmygov". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**Igor F. Shmygov
Charge d'Affaires a.i.**

**Mr. Steve Pifer
Special Assistant to the President and
Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian
and Eurasian Affairs
National Security Council
Washington, D.C. 20504**



Президент Республики Беларусь

Минск, 19 августа 1996 года

Господин Президент!

Мое личное обращение к Вам продиктовано стремлением проинформировать Вас и в Вашем лице американский народ о социально-экономических и политических преобразованиях в Республике Беларусь. Я делаю это с убеждением во взаимной заинтересованности в развитии отношений партнерства и сотрудничества между нашими странами.

Хочу сообщить Вам, что Республика Беларусь продолжает оставаться верной курсу экономических реформ, демократических преобразований и строительства правового государства, в котором гарантированы права человека, свобода личности и безопасность граждан.

Беларусь - одна из немногих стран СНГ, которой, несмотря на все объективные трудности, удалось обеспечить гражданское спокойствие, стабильность и мир. Но и в нашей стране движение по пути реформ сталкивается со значительными трудностями. По целому ряду принципиальных вопросов не удастся добиться согласованного подхода политических партий. В этих случаях мы прибегаем к референдуму как основному демократическому конституционному средству выяснения мнения народа.

**Его Превосходительству
Господину Биллу Клинтону,
Президенту
Соединенных Штатов Америки**

На этот раз на референдум выносится вопрос конституционной реформы. Наша Конституция, принятая в 1994 году, имеет ряд недостатков. На главный из них - неравномерность полномочий исполнительной, законодательной и судебной ветвей власти было указано еще во время рецензирования Конституции в Совете Европы в 1995 году.

Проанализировав трудности, возникавшие в ходе демократических преобразований государственных институтов, внимательно изучив практику парламентской демократии в странах Западной и Восточной Европы, США, Канаде и других государствах, мы убедились в необходимости внесения в Конституцию поправок, которые дали бы возможность иметь в Беларуси профессиональный парламент. Это приведет внутреннюю структуру парламента и его функции в соответствие с новыми демократическими институтами нашего общества.

Конечно, не скрою, что идея референдума вызвала к себе неоднозначное отношение в различных слоях общества. Есть общественные движения и силы, которые хотят воспользоваться сложившейся ситуацией и представить в ложном свете как эти меры, так и саму суть референдума.

Исходя из этого, я считаю своим долгом проинформировать Вас об истинных целях конституционной реформы и подтвердить верность Республики Беларусь и меня, как ее Президента, политике реформ, демократическим преобразованиям, мирным устремлениям во внешней политике, строгому соблюдению международных правовых норм.

Хочу обратить Ваше внимание, что с момента провозглашения независимости в 1991 году Республика Беларусь неоднократно подтверждала свою безусловную приверженность общечеловеческим ценностям и международным стандартам в области прав человека. Именно на это и нацелены предстоящие конституционные преобразования в нашей стране. Пользуясь случаем, хочу также отметить, что мы искренне заинтересованы в расширении и углублении всестороннего сотрудничества между нашими государствами, установлении политического диалога на высшем уровне.

Во время своего пребывания в Республике Беларусь, я думаю, Вы убедились в стремлении нашего народа к миру, равноправному партнерству, взаимовыгодному сотрудничеству с другими

государствами. Республика Беларусь стремится понять проблемы других стран и народов. Но она также рассчитывает, что и другие понимают ее проблемы.

Я буду признателен Вам, Господин Президент, за понимание, поддержку нашей политики и наших действий. Народ Беларуси и я, как Президент, навсегда запомним ее и будем высоко ценить как очень важную для нас в трудную переходную эпоху.

Хочу заверить Вас, что этот референдум будет проведен при максимальном соблюдении законодательства и с учетом международной практики. Мы пригласим международных наблюдателей и создадим все условия для их работы. Наше Посольство в Соединенных Штатах Америки готово дать исчерпывающую информацию по всем вопросам проведения референдума, интересующим американскую общественность.

Позвольте пожелать народу Соединенных Штатов Америки и лично Вам процветания.

Искренне Ваш,



Александр Лукашенко

**Unofficial translation
Minsk
August 19, 1996**

Dear Mr. President,

My addressing You personally has been dictated by my desire to inform You and, through You, the American people of social, economic and political transformation in the Republic of Belarus. I do this being convinced in our mutual interest in developing relations of partnership and cooperation between our states.

I wish to inform You that the Republic of Belarus continues to adhere to the course of economic reform, democratic transformation and the setting up of a state based on law which guarantees human rights, personal freedoms and security for its citizens.

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This time, constitutional reform is submitted as a referendum issue. Our Constitution, adopted in 1994, has a number of shortcomings. Irregularities in the distribution of powers between executive, legislative and judicial branches were pointed out back in 1995 as a main drawback during the reviewing of the Constitution by the Council of Europe.

Having analyzed the difficulties which came up in the course of democratic transformation of the state institutions and having carefully studied the practice of parliamentary democracy in the countries of Western and Eastern Europe, the United States, Canada and other countries, we have become convinced in the necessity of introducing such amendments into the Constitution which would provide Belarus with an opportunity to have a professional Parliament. This will bring an internal structure of the Parliament and its functions into accord with new democratic institutions of our society.

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America**

Of course, I will make no secret of the fact that the idea to hold a referendum has attracted complicated reaction from various strata of our society. There are public movements and forces which wish to use the existing situation to present in a false light both these measures and the very essence of the referendum.

Proceeding from the above, I consider it my duty to inform You of the genuine purpose of the constitutional reform and to confirm allegiance of the Republic of Belarus and my own allegiance of the nation's President to the policies of reform, democratic transformation, peaceful intentions in foreign policy and strict adherence to observing international legal norms.

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I believe, that during Your staying in the Republic of Belarus You have become convinced in our people's striving for peace, equal partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with other states. The Republic of Belarus seeks to understand the problems of other nations and peoples. But it also counts on others to try and understand its own problems as well.

I will be grateful to You, Mr. President, for understanding and support of our policies and actions. The people of Belarus and I as the President will never forget this and will highly appreciate it as very important at a difficult time of transition.

I wish to assure You, that this referendum will be held under strict observation of legislation and with international practice taken into account. We will invite international observers and will create all conditions for their work. Our Embassy in the United States is ready to provide exhaustive information on all issues of the forthcoming referendum, which might be of interest to the American public.

Let me wish prosperity to the people of the United States of America and to You personally.

Sincerely,

/ signed /

Alexander Lukashenko



**PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**



REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

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Original OA/ID Number: 1132				
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Duplicate of vz4680_001. (1 page)	02/13/1997	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002. letter	To President Clinton from Belarus President Lukashenko. [English Translation] (2 pages)	11/30/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
003. letter	To President Clinton from Belarus President Lukashenko. [Belarusian] (2 pages)	11/30/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
004. letter	To President Clinton from Serguei Martynov. (1 page)	12/02/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
005. letter	To President Clinton from Belaus President Lukashenko. [Belarusian] (1 page)	11/06/1996	P1/b(1)
006. letter	Duplicate of 004. (1 page)	12/02/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
007. letter	Duplicate of 003. (2 pages)	11/30/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
008. letter	Duplicate of 002. (2 pages)	11/30/1996	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Records Management
 [Lukashenko]
 OA/Box Number: 1132

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vz4681

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9607910
RECEIVED: 06 DEC 96 08

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DOC DATE: 30 NOV 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS
ARMS CONTROL

NUCLEAR WEAPONS
HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RPT ON CONCLUSION OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OF BELARUS

ACTION: NFAR PER PIFER

DUE DATE: 10 DEC 96 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006

By VL NARA, Date 2/5/2007

206-0223-m

COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 PASCUAL
001

Z 96120608 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 97021416 NFAR PER PIFER

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

001 961130

STATE

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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9607910
RECEIVED: 06 DEC 96 08

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DOC DATE: 30 NOV 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS
ARMS CONTROL

NUCLEAR WEAPONS
HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RPT ON CONCLUSION OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OF BELARUS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 10 DEC 96 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

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E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006

By lc NARA, Date 2/9/2007

7016-0223-44

COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 1 OF 1

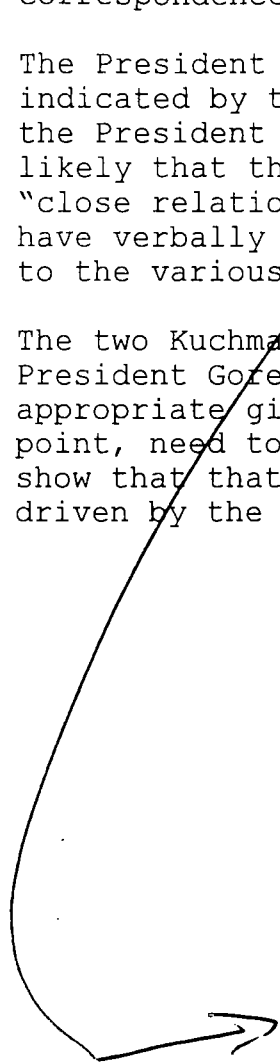
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Steve -- we can close out all the outstanding presidential correspondence with Kuchma and Lukashenko.

The President received three letters from Lukashenko, not two as indicated by the tracking system. We have agreed with State that the President should not respond to these letters as it is highly likely that they would be misused by Lukashenko to portray a "close relationship" with the President of the United States. We have verbally communicated to Belarusian officials our responses to the various policy issues they have raised with us.

The two Kuchma letters have been addressed by a letter from Vice President Gore to Kuchma (which I have attached). This is appropriate given the new Kuchma-Gore Commission. We, at some point, need to gin up a letter from the President to Kuchma to show that that relationship still exists, but it should not be driven by the Kuchma letters we have received.

Carlos



Exec Sec -

As per above, please close Lukashenko letter files (#5066, #6141, #7910) - No response appropriate at this time

Also as per above, please close Kuchma letter files (#7061, #0954) - VP message has answered.

Thanks.

Steve Pite
2/13/97

Unofficial translation**Minsk, November 30, 1996****Dear Mr. President,**

I would like to draw your attention to an event of paramount importance for the entire international community. On November 27, 1996 the last intercontinental ballistic missile left the Republic of Belarus and a territory of 207.6 thousand square kilometers in the center of Europe became nuclear free.

After the break-up of the USSR the Republic of Belarus became the first nation in the world to have voluntarily denounced an opportunity to possess nuclear weapons and to have announced its course aimed at achieving a nuclear free status.

On February 4, 1993 the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of July 31, 1991 and the Lisbon Protocol to this Treaty of May 25, 1992 as well as made a decision on Belarus joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a member-state not possessing such weapons.

The Heads of States and Governments of the OSCE will meet in Lisbon on December 2 to make decisions on building a new Europe, while on December 5 we will mark the two-year anniversary of the START I entering into force. On the eve of these important dates in the history of the continent Belarus demonstrates to the international community its peace-loving foreign policy and its desire to make a significant contribution to the strengthening of European and global security. The withdrawal of the last nuclear missile before the established deadline testifies to the strict observance by Belarus of the international obligations it had undertaken. Complete liberation of the nation's territory from nuclear weapons is yet another powerful testimony of

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.**

the policies of Belarus aimed at reducing nuclear threat, facilitating thereby the setting up of the atmosphere of confidence between peoples.

Ten years have passed since the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant catastrophe and the people of Belarus, having experienced its consequences, understands like no other the real threat of nuclear weapons. The withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus signifies a new stage in the history of our state.

We are grateful to all states and international organizations which, directly or indirectly, have rendered and continue to render assistance to us in implementing the START I. We would like to express our special gratitude to the United States of America for effective technical and financial assistance under the Nunn - Lugar program.

We are convinced, that the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus is a good basis for implementing a well-known Belarusian initiative on the setting up of a nuclear free space in Central and Eastern Europe.

Successful realization of the idea of setting up a nuclear free space in the center of Europe could become one of the most efficient ways of reducing tensions in Europe and in international relations on the whole and of reducing anxiety in connection with the planned NATO expansion and the statements made by certain European nations on their readiness to deploy the NATO nuclear weapons on their territories. The idea of setting up a nuclear free space is an important step on the road of strengthening international nuclear non-proliferation regime which does not contradict today's military and political realities in Europe and does not infringe upon anybody's national interests.

Following the withdrawal of the last Russian nuclear missiles from the territory of Belarus, a de-facto nuclear free space has been set up in Central and Eastern Europe. In our view, this could be and should be fixed legally.

The Republic of Belarus hopes that your nation, as well as the international community, will duly appreciate and support our position on nuclear disarmament.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

/ signed /

Alexander Lukashenko



Президент Республики Беларусь

Минск, 30 ноября 1996 года

Уважаемый Господин Президент,

Хотел бы обратить Ваше внимание на весьма важное для всего международного сообщества событие. 27 ноября 1996 года последняя межконтинентальная баллистическая ракета покинула пределы Республики Беларусь, и территория площадью 207,6 тысячи квадратных километров в центре Европы стала безъядерной.

После распада СССР Республика Беларусь первой в мире добровольно отказалась от возможности обладания ядерным оружием и провозгласила курс на безъядерность.

4 февраля 1993 года Верховный Совет Республики Беларусь ратифицировал Договор о сокращении и ограничении стратегических наступательных вооружений от 31 июля 1991 года и Лиссабонский протокол к нему от 25 мая 1992 года, а также принял решение о присоединении Беларуси к Договору о нераспространении ядерного оружия в качестве государства-участника, не обладающего таким оружием.

2 декабря в Лиссабоне соберутся главы государств и правительств ОБСЕ для принятия решений по вопросам строительства новой Европы, а 5 декабря мы отметим двухлетие со дня вступления Договора о СНВ в силу. В преддверии этих важных дат в истории континента Беларусь демонстрирует мировому сообществу миролюбивый курс своей внешней политики и стремление внести весомый вклад в дело укрепления европейской и глобальной безопасности. Вывод последней ядерной ракеты раньше установленного срока свидетельствует о строгом соблюдении Республикой Беларусь принятых на себя между-

Высокоуважаемому
Уильяму Джефферсону Клинтону,
Президенту Соединенных Штатов Америки,
Вашингтон

2

народных обязательств. Полное освобождение территории страны от ядерного оружия является ярким подтверждением курса Беларуси на уменьшение ядерной угрозы, который способствует созданию атмосферы доверия между народами.

Десять лет прошло с момента катастрофы на Чернобыльской АЭС, и белорусский народ, испытавший ее последствия, как никто иной, понимает реальную угрозу ядерного оружия. Вывод ядерных вооружений с территории Беларуси знаменует новый этап в истории нашей страны.

Мы благодарны всем государствам и международным организациям, которые прямо или косвенно оказывали и оказывают нам содействие в реализации Договора о СНВ. Особую благодарность хотелось бы выразить Соединенным Штатам Америки за действенную техническую и финансовую помощь в рамках программы Нанна-Лугара.

Мы убеждены в том, что вывод с территории Республики Беларусь ядерного оружия - хорошая основа для реализации известной белорусской инициативы о создании безъядерного пространства в Центральной и Восточной Европе.

Успешное воплощение в жизнь идеи создания в центре Европы пространства, свободного от ядерного оружия, могло бы стать одним из наиболее эффективных путей снижения напряженности в Европе и в международных отношениях в целом, снятия беспокойства в связи с планируемым расширением НАТО и заявлениями некоторых стран Восточной Европы о готовности разместить ядерное оружие НАТО на своих территориях. Идея создания безъядерного пространства является важным шагом на пути укрепления международного режима ядерного нераспространения, не противоречит сегодняшним военно-политическим реалиям в Европе и не ущемляет ничьих национальных интересов.

После вывода с территории Беларуси последних российских ядерных ракет безъядерное пространство в Центральной и Восточной Европе создано де-факто. На наш взгляд, это может и должно быть закреплено юридически.

Республика Беларусь рассчитывает на то, что ее позиция в вопросах ядерного разоружения будет должным образом оценена и поддержана Вашим государством и международным сообществом.

Примите, Господин Президент, уверения в моем самом высоком уважении.



Александр Лукашенко



The Ambassador

*Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009*

December 2, 1996

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to convey to you herewith the text of a letter from President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko on the occasion of the completion of the withdrawal of the Russian nuclear warheads and missiles from the territory of the Republic of Belarus and the implementation, on this basis, of the initiative put forward by President A. Lukashenko earlier this year to set up a nuclear free space in Central and Eastern Europe.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Martynov', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Serguei N. Martynov

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.**



The Ambassador

*Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009*

December 2, 1996

Dear Mr. Pifer,

Please find enclosed herewith the text of a letter with an unofficial translation from President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko for conveying to President of the United States William J. Clinton.

Please accept, Mr. Pifer, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Martynov", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Serguei N. Martynov

**Mr. Steve Pifer
Special Assistant to the President and
Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian
and Eurasian Affairs
National Security Council
Washington, D.C. 20504**

REFERRAL

DATE: 06 DEC 96

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT


DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: PRESIDENT
SOURCE: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR
DATE: 30 NOV 96
SUBJ: RPT ON CONCLUSION OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT OF BELARUS

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

DUE DATE:

COMMENT: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - NO REPLY NECESSARY

FOR


JOHN W. FICKLIN

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES



**СТАРШЫНЯ
ВЯРХОЎНАГА САВЕТА РЭСПУБЛІКІ
БЕЛАРУСЬ**

**ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЬ
ВЕРХОВНОГО СОВЕТА РЕСПУБЛИКИ
БЕЛАРУСЬ**

**CHAIRMAN
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BELARUS**

37-7/III5

06.II.96 г.

Шаноўны Пан Прэзідэнт,

Ад імя Вярхоўнага Савета Рэспублікі Беларусь і сябе асабіста з вялікім задавальненнем шлю Вам самыя цёплыя віншаванні з нагоды паўторнага абрання Вас Прэзідэнтам Злучаных Штатаў Амерыкі.

Упэўнены, што Ваша дзейнасць на гэтай вельмі высокай пасадзе будзе спрыяць дабрабыту вашай вялікай дзяржавы і ўсяго амерыканскага народа, умацаванню міру і дэмакратыі ва ўсім свеце.

Карыстаюся нагодай, каб выказаць запэўненасць у сваёй найвялікшай павазе і перадаць найлепшыя пажаданні Вашым блізкім.

Сямён Шарэцкі

**Яго Правасхадзіцельству
Пану Уільяму Джэферсану Клінтану
Прэзідэнту Злучаных Штатаў Амерыкі**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus and myself I have a great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of your re-election as a President of the United States of America.

I am sure that your activity at this very high position will favour the prosperity of your great State and all American people, strengthening peace and democracy all over the world.

I use this opportunity to assure you in my highest respect and to express my best wishes to your family.

Yours sincerely,

Syamen Sharetski

**His Excellency
William Jefferson Clinton
President
United States of America**

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**PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.**

Secretary

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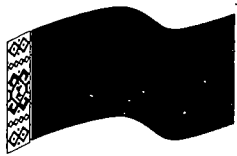
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REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
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FAX TRANSMISSION SHEET

TO Ms. Dora Kale
FAX # (202) 456 9160
FROM Valentin Rybakov
DATE December 3, 1996
No OF PAGES 7 (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

MESSAGE Dear Ms. Kale,

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of President Lukashenko's letter to President Clinton. I will deliver the original letter to the NSC today.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pascal' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Valentin Rybakov
First Secretary and
Assistant to the Ambassador
Phone: (202) 986 2860

Please log into
System w/action
to Pascual/RUE.
Thanks

Don



The Ambassador

*Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009*

December 2, 1996

Dear Mr. Pifer,

Please find enclosed herewith the text of a letter with an unofficial translation from President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko for conveying to President of the United States William J. Clinton.

Please accept, Mr. Pifer, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Martynov', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Serguei N. Martynov

**Mr. Steve Pifer
Special Assistant to the President and
Senior Director for Russian, Ukrainian
and Eurasian Affairs
National Security Council
Washington, D.C. 20504**



The Ambassador

*Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009*

December 2, 1996

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to convey to you herewith the text of a letter from President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko on the occasion of the completion of the withdrawal of the Russian nuclear warheads and missiles from the territory of the Republic of Belarus and the implementation, on this basis, of the initiative put forward by President A. Lukashenko earlier this year to set up a nuclear free space in Central and Eastern Europe.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Martynov', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Serguei N. Martynov

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.**



Президент Республики Беларусь

Минск, 30 ноября 1996 года

Уважаемый Господин Президент,

Хотел бы обратить Ваше внимание на весьма важное для всего международного сообщества событие. 27 ноября 1996 года последняя межконтинентальная баллистическая ракета покинула пределы Республики Беларусь, и территория площадью 207,6 тысячи квадратных километров в центре Европы стала безъядерной.

После распада СССР Республика Беларусь первой в мире добровольно отказалась от возможности обладания ядерным оружием и провозгласила курс на безъядерность.

4 февраля 1993 года Верховный Совет Республики Беларусь ратифицировал Договор о сокращении и ограничении стратегических наступательных вооружений от 31 июля 1991 года и Лиссабонский протокол к нему от 25 мая 1992 года, а также принял решение о присоединении Беларуси к Договору о нераспространении ядерного оружия в качестве государства-участника, не обладающего таким оружием.

2 декабря в Лиссабоне соберутся главы государств и правительств ОБСЕ для принятия решений по вопросам строительства новой Европы, а 5 декабря мы отметим двухлетие со дня вступления Договора о СНВ в силу. В преддверии этих важных дат в истории континента Беларусь демонстрирует мировому сообществу миролюбивый курс своей внешней политики и стремление внести весомый вклад в дело укрепления европейской и глобальной безопасности. Вывод последней ядерной ракеты раньше установленного срока свидетельствует о строгом соблюдении Республикой Беларусь принятых на себя между-

Высокоуважаемому
Уильяму Джефферсону Клинтону,
Президенту Соединенных Штатов Америки,
Вашингтон

2

народных обязательств. Полное освобождение территории страны от ядерного оружия является ярким подтверждением курса Беларуси на уменьшение ядерной угрозы, который способствует созданию атмосферы доверия между народами.

Десять лет прошло с момента катастрофы на Чернобыльской АЭС, и белорусский народ, испытавший ее последствия, как никто иной, понимает реальную угрозу ядерного оружия. Вывод ядерных вооружений с территории Беларуси знаменует новый этап в истории нашей страны.

Мы благодарны всем государствам и международным организациям, которые прямо или косвенно оказывали и оказывают нам содействие в реализации Договора о СНВ. Особую благодарность хотелось бы выразить Соединенным Штатам Америки за действенную техническую и финансовую помощь в рамках программы Нанна-Лугара.

Мы убеждены в том, что вывод с территории Республики Беларусь ядерного оружия - хорошая основа для реализации известной белорусской инициативы о создании безъядерного пространства в Центральной и Восточной Европе.

Успешное воплощение в жизнь идеи создания в центре Европы пространства, свободного от ядерного оружия, могло бы стать одним из наиболее эффективных путей снижения напряженности в Европе и в международных отношениях в целом, снятия беспокойства в связи с планируемым расширением НАТО и заявлениями некоторых стран Восточной Европы о готовности разместить ядерное оружие НАТО на своих территориях. Идея создания безъядерного пространства является важным шагом на пути укрепления международного режима ядерного нераспространения, не противоречит сегодняшним военно-политическим реалиям в Европе и не ущемляет ничьих национальных интересов.

После вывода с территории Беларуси последних российских ядерных ракет безъядерное пространство в Центральной и Восточной Европе создано де-факто. На наш взгляд, это может и должно быть закреплено юридически.

Республика Беларусь рассчитывает на то, что ее позиция в вопросах ядерного разоружения будет должным образом оценена и поддержана Вашим государством и международным сообществом.

Примите, Господин Президент, уверения в моем самом высоком уважении.



Александр Лукашенко

Unofficial translation**Minsk, November 30, 1996****Dear Mr. President,**

I would like to draw your attention to an event of paramount importance for the entire international community. On November 27, 1996 the last intercontinental ballistic missile left the Republic of Belarus and a territory of 207.6 thousand square kilometers in the center of Europe became nuclear free.

After the break-up of the USSR the Republic of Belarus became the first nation in the world to have voluntarily denounced an opportunity to possess nuclear weapons and to have announced its course aimed at achieving a nuclear free status.

On February 4, 1993 the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of July 31, 1991 and the Lisbon Protocol to this Treaty of May 25, 1992 as well as made a decision on Belarus joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a member-state not possessing such weapons.

The Heads of States and Governments of the OSCE will meet in Lisbon on December 2 to make decisions on building a new Europe, while on December 5 we will mark the two-year anniversary of the START I entering into force. On the eve of these important dates in the history of the continent Belarus demonstrates to the international community its peace-loving foreign policy and its desire to make a significant contribution to the strengthening of European and global security. The withdrawal of the last nuclear missile before the established deadline testifies to the strict observance by Belarus of the international obligations it had undertaken. Complete liberation of the nation's territory from nuclear weapons is yet another powerful testimony of

**His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.**

the policies of Belarus aimed at reducing nuclear threat, facilitating thereby the setting up of the atmosphere of confidence between peoples.

Ten years have passed since the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant catastrophe and the people of Belarus, having experienced its consequences, understands like no other the real threat of nuclear weapons. The withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus signifies a new stage in the history of our state.

We are grateful to all states and international organizations which, directly or indirectly, have rendered and continue to render assistance to us in implementing the START I. We would like to express our special gratitude to the United States of America for effective technical and financial assistance under the Nunn - Lugar program.

We are convinced, that the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Belarus is a good basis for implementing a well-known Belarusian initiative on the setting up of a nuclear free space in Central and Eastern Europe.

Successful realization of the idea of setting up a nuclear free space in the center of Europe could become one of the most efficient ways of reducing tensions in Europe and in international relations on the whole and of reducing anxiety in connection with the planned NATO expansion and the statements made by certain European nations on their readiness to deploy the NATO nuclear weapons on their territories. The idea of setting up a nuclear free space is an important step on the road of strengthening international nuclear non-proliferation regime which does not contradict today's military and political realities in Europe and does not infringe upon anybody's national interests.

Following the withdrawal of the last Russian nuclear missiles from the territory of Belarus, a de-facto nuclear free space has been set up in Central and Eastern Europe. In our view, this could be and should be fixed legally.

The Republic of Belarus hopes that your nation, as well as the international community, will duly appreciate and support our position on nuclear disarmament.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

/ signed /

Alexander Lukashenko

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. form	NSC/RMO Profile Record ID: 9702547. [Annotated] (1 page)	04/21/1997	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002. draft	Letter to Belarusian President Lukashenko from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. (2 pages)	04/17/1997	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
003. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [English Translation] (3 pages)	03/28/1997	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
004. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [Belarusian] (2 pages)	03/28/1997	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 NSC Records Management
 [Lukashenko]
 OA/Box Number: 1613

FOLDER TITLE:

9702547

2016-0223-M

vz4682

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9702547
RECEIVED: 14 APR 97 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEXANDE

DOC DATE: 28 MAR 97
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES RE BILATERAL BELARUSIAN / AMER RELATIONS

ACTION: NFAR PER PASCUAL

DUE DATE: 25 APR 97 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By VL NARA, Date 2/9/2007
2016-0223-M

COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 1 OF 1

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9702547

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 PASCUAL
001

Z 97041415 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 97042216 NFAR PER PASCUAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEXANDE

DOC DATE: 28 MAR 97
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES RE BILATERLA BELARUSIAN / AMER RELATIONS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 25 APR 97 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION
PASCUAL

FOR CONCURRENCE
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FOR INFO
BASS
MATERA
MILLISON

EXEC SEC: Please close out

an interagency meeting including NSC, state, DoD, CIA, Treasury and others met on 4/21/97 to review U.S. policy toward Belarus. It was agreed that the President should not write to Lukashenko as Lukashenko would portray such a letter as indicative of his personal relationship with the President. Instead, Secretary Albright will respond to the Belarusian Foreign Minister on behalf of the President. A draft of the Albright letter is enclosed.

DISPATCHED BY Pascual DATE 4/21/97 BY HAND W/ATTCH

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DOC 1 OF 1

TAB A

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Minister,

On behalf of President Clinton, I would like to respond to President Lukashenko's letter of March 28.

In January, Ambassador Yalowitz presented to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the United States policy of "selective engagement," which is designed to encourage respect for internationally recognized standards of human rights, to foster democratic reform, and to enhance the conditions for creation of a market economy in Belarus.

Since then, we regret that your government has taken steps that draw Belarus even further away from international democratic norms. The crackdown on the independent media, non-governmental organizations and the political opposition, along with detentions of bystanders, including U.S. citizens, is not the hallmark of an emerging democracy.

The United States remains concerned that such actions continue to push Belarus toward self-isolation. The U.S. citizen director of the Belarusian Soros Foundation was held incommunicado and then expelled, and a U.S. diplomat observing a demonstration as part of his official duties was declared "persona non grata."

These were unfriendly acts to which we responded appropriately. We will continue to defend our interests and personnel forcefully. Where we have invited Belarus's participation, such as in the Regional Airspace Initiative, your government has declined.

As you know, Ambassador Yalowitz was recalled to Washington for consultations. He is now back in Minsk with instructions to reaffirm our policy of outreach to supporters of democracy, human rights and economic reform. Ambassador Yalowitz is empowered to communicate our views. I trust that you will use him to communicate any developments in your government's policies.

The United States has consistently sought an ongoing, constructive dialogue between representatives of our two countries at various levels. Such activity could be of benefit to both our peoples. We look to your government to

pursue a course of democracy, human rights and market reform
that would make it possible to develop closer ties.

Respectfully,

Madeleine K. Albright

His Excellency Ivan Antonovich,
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minsk, Belarus

Delivered to State
on 4/8

25 47

Unofficial translation

Minsk

March 28, 1997

Dear Mr. President,

I have been motivated to address you, at this complicated period in bilateral Belarusian-American relations, by a clear realization of the responsibility the leaders of both Belarus and the United States bear for the future of partnership and cooperation between our states and peoples.

Paying a tribute of respect to the prominent role your country is playing today on the world arena, the Government of the Republic of Belarus has been consistently implementing and intends to implement further a policy of developing comprehensive contacts with the United States. Despite all recent events and incidents it is totally wrong to talk about any anti-American direction of the actions and policies of the Belarusian leadership. In this situation it would be regrettable if individual cases were unjustifiably considered as something larger than they really are. As far as these cases are concerned, we are ready to receive your authorized representatives whom we could acquaint with the circumstances of the events that took place.

Desire of the Republic of Belarus to actively develop equal and mutually beneficial relations with the United States is expressed not only in words. I will allow myself to present just a few examples to prove that the Republic of Belarus has really been taking concrete and significant actions in this direction.

His Excellency
Mr. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

APR 11 12:34

In a large number of cases, when state-owned enterprises were privatized, for instance in the case of the KORALL Plant, preference was given to American investors. Active support at the highest state level, extended to a major FORD project in Belarus, which has provided American business with a real opportunity to enter the C.I.S. market of automobile manufacturers and to seriously infringe upon the monopoly of the Russian enterprises in this area, is a clear evidence of the far-fetchedness of allegations about the allegedly biased attitude of the Belarusian leadership towards Western, and above all American, investors. There are many vivid examples of a fruitful Belarusian-American cooperation in the area of science and technology as well.

As before, we are ready to substantively consider, within the framework of the bilateral Business Development Committee, all the problems American businessmen and investors are facing in Belarus. To this end, we would be prepared to raise the issue of coordinating financial, economic and scientific and technical cooperation between our countries to a higher state level.

Belarus' openness and its real readiness to pursue cooperation with the United States are further proven by the scope and contents of the contracts to supply in recent years military products to the United States, including the most advanced types of armaments. The fact should not be ignored that, despite certain pressure from the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus continues the supply defense systems, which are of interest to the U.S. Department of Defense.

I would like to use this opportunity to invite the United States and its NATO partners to participate, within the framework of the Partnership For Peace program, in the exercise, planned by Belarus, on the actions aimed at eliminating the consequences of nuclear disasters. The Republic of Belarus is open to counter proposals on the participation of its military units in similar exercises conducted by NATO member-states.

These are examples of possible directions of development and strengthening of partnership interaction between the United States of America and the Republic of Belarus.

By sending this letter to you, Your Excellency, I would once again wish to emphasize that the Belarusian leadership has enough political will to move forward along this way together despite any difficulties.

Respectfully,

Alexander Lukashenko

"Минск, 28 марта 1997 года

Глубокоуважаемый господин Президент,

Обратиться к Вам в этот непростой для белорусско-американских двусторонних отношений период меня побудило ясное осознание ответственности руководителей Беларуси и США за будущее партнёрства и сотрудничества между нашими странами и народами.

Отдавая дань уважения видной роли, которую Ваша страна играет сегодня на мировой арене, Правительство Республики Беларусь последовательно осуществляло и намерено и далее проводить политику развития всесторонних контактов с Соединёнными Штатами. Несмотря ни на какие события и инциденты последних дней, совершенно неправомерно вести речь о какой-либо антиамериканской направленности действий и политики белорусского руководства. В этой ситуации было бы прискорбно, если бы частные случаи неоправданно рассматривались как нечто большее, чем они на самом деле являются. Что же касается этих случаев, то мы готовы принять уполномоченных Вами представителей, которых мы могли бы ознакомить с обстоятельствами случившегося.

Желание Республики Беларусь активно развивать равноправные и взаимовыгодные связи с Соединёнными Штатами выражается не только на словах. Позволю себе привести лишь несколько примеров того, что Республика Беларусь действительно осуществляет конкретные и весомые действия в этом направлении.

При приватизации государственных предприятий в большом числе случаев, например в случае с заводом "Коралл", предпочтение отдавалось именно американским инвесторам. Активная поддержка на высшем государственном уровне крупнейшего проекта компании "Форд" в

Беларуси, предоставляющего американскому бизнесу реальную возможность вхождения на рынок автомобильных производителей в СНГ и серьёзно ущемляющего монополию российских предприятий в этой области, наглядно свидетельствует о надуманности утверждений о предубеждённости руководства Беларуси в отношении западных, и прежде всего американских, инвесторов. Есть немало ярких примеров плодотворного белорусско-американского сотрудничества и в сфере науки и техники.

Его Превосходительству
Господину Уильяму Дж.Клинтону,
Президенту Соединённых Штатов Америки,
Вашингтон

Как и ранее, мы готовы предметно рассматривать все проблемы, с которыми сталкиваются американские предприниматели и инвесторы в Беларуси, в рамках двустороннего комитета по развитию делового сотрудничества. С этой целью мы были бы готовы поднять вопрос координации финансового, экономического и научно-технического сотрудничества между нашими странами на более высокий государственный уровень.

Об открытости Беларуси и её реальной готовности к сотрудничеству с США говорят также объём и содержание контрактов на поставку в последние годы военной продукции в США, которые касаются и самых современных видов вооружений. Нельзя обойти молчанием тот факт, что, несмотря на определённое давление со стороны Российской Федерации, Республика Беларусь продолжает осуществлять поставку оборонных систем, представляющих интерес для Министерства обороны Соединённых Штатов.

Хотел бы воспользоваться этой возможностью и пригласить Соединённые Штаты и их партнёров по НАТО в рамках программы "Партнёрство ради мира" принять участие в запланированных в Беларуси учениях по отработке мероприятий по ликвидации последствий ядерных катастроф. Республика Беларусь открыта и для встречных предложений об участии своих воинских формирований в аналогичных учениях, проводимых странами-членами НАТО.

Приведённые примеры свидетельствуют о возможных направлениях развития и укрепления партнёрского взаимодействия между Соединёнными Штатами Америки и Республикой Беларусь.

Этим посланием к Вам, Ваше Превосходительство, хотел бы в очередной раз подчеркнуть, что у белорусского руководства есть достаточно политической воли, чтобы, несмотря ни на какие трудности, идти вместе вперёд по этому пути.

С уважением,

Александр Лукашенко".



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Original OA/ID Number: 2071				
Document ID: 9808043				
Row: 45	Section: 6	Shelf: 3	Position: 2	Stack: V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [English Translation] (2 pages)	11/20/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
001b. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [Belarusian] (2 pages)	11/20/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
001c. email	Jack Segal to Cheryl Barnett. Subject: FW: Letter from Lukashenko (#9808043). (1 page)	12/02/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002a. letter	To President Clinton from Belarusian President Lukashenko. [State Translation] (2 pages)	11/20/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002b. letter	Duplicate of 001a. (2 pages)	11/20/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019
002c. letter	Duplicate of 001b. (2 pages)	11/20/1998	P1/b(1) KBH 8/29/2019

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
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 [Lukashenko]
 OA/Box Number: 2071

FOLDER TITLE:

9808043

2016-0223-M

vz4683

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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RECORD ID: 9808043
RECEIVED: 30 NOV 98 16

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DOC DATE: 20 NOV 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE RELOCATION OF US AMB RESIDENCE IN BELARUS

ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY DUE DATE: 11 DEC 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SEGAL LOGREF:

FILES: WH NSCP: CODES:

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E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By JK NARA, Date 2/5/2017
2016-0223-W

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

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001 PASCUAL
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001 SEGAL
001 STATE

Z 98113016 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 98120114 ACTION TRANSFERRED
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X 98120315 DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

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RECORD ID: 9808043
RECEIVED: 30 NOV 98 16

TO: PRESIDENT

*Rec'd 12/1/98
CEB*

FROM: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DOC DATE: 20 NOV 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BELARUS

HS

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR RE RELOCATION OF US AMB RESIDENCE IN BELARUS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 11 DEC 98 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006

By *VR* NARA, Date *2/9/2017*

2016-0223-1A

COMMENTS:

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DOC 1 OF 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Translated from Russian

«PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Minsk, 20 November 1998

Dear Mr. President,

Attributing great importance to the development and improvement of the Belarusian-American relations I decided to address you with this letter as I am convinced that they should not be put into jeopardy by some relatively minor issues. Existing misunderstanding can be addressed and overcome through an honest and open dialogue.

I dare say that continuation of the prolonged dispute on legal validity of claims of this or that party with regard to the location of the private residence of the US Ambassador in which our foreign agencies have been involved recently is hardly in the interest of either state, especially so within the context of the current complex geopolitical situation in the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

The fact that the private residences of the US Ambassador and the heads of diplomatic missions of Germany, France, Italy and of some other countries are situated on the territory of the residence of the President of the Republic of Belarus naturally restricts free access to them.

In this situation we are offering to your Ambassador as well as to the ambassadors of the aforementioned countries a fairly extensive choice of apartments, houses and give them an opportunity to build their own residences in Minsk.

The Belarusian party is ready to undertake everything necessary in order to ensure that the Ambassador of the United States of America - the country the relations with which are among the main priorities of our foreign policy - has in Minsk the conditions which correspond to his status of a representative of the great country and the highest international standards.

I would like to stress with utmost determination the unconditional adherence of the Republic of Belarus to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and other international legal instruments which regulate the functioning of diplomatic missions.

I hope, Mr. President, for your assistance in solving the current conflict which creates obstacles in the way of consistent integration of Belarus into the world community of states which follow the principles of democracy and market economy. Today there are all objective conditions for the development of the Belarusian-American relations in the spirit of mutual respect, close trade, economic and political cooperation based on sovereignty and the principle of non-interference into internal affairs of each other.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Mr. President, of my highest consideration.

Alexander Lukashenko

The Honourable William J. Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.»

Президент
Республики Беларусь

9820670

Минск, 20 ноября 1998 года

Уважаемый Господин Президент,

Придавая важное значение развитию и совершенствованию белорусско-американских отношений, решил обратиться к Вам с письмом, ибо убежден, что они не должны усложняться из-за относительно частных вопросов. Возникшие недоразумения могут быть рассмотрены и преодолены путем честного, открытого диалога.

Полагаю, что продолжение затянувшегося спора, который ведут наши внешнеполитические ведомства по поводу юридической обоснованности претензий той или иной стороны к размещению частной резиденции Посла США, вряд ли отвечает интересам обоих государств, особенно в контексте нынешней непростой геополитической обстановки в регионе Центральной и Восточной Европы.

Нахождение частных резиденций Посла США и глав дипломатических миссий Германии, Франции, Италии и некоторых других стран на территории, являющейся резиденцией Президента Республики Беларусь, естественно ограничивает свободный доступ к ним.

В этих условиях мы предлагаем Вашему Послу, а также послам упомянутых стран достаточно широкий выбор квартир, частных домов, а также предоставляем возможность самим строить резиденции в Минске.

Его Превосходительству
Господину Уильяму Дж.Клинтону,
Президенту Соединенных Штатов Америки,
Вашингтон

Белорусская сторона готова сделать все необходимое, чтобы Посол Соединенных Штатов Америки, отношения с которыми являются одними из приоритетных в нашей внешней политике, находился в Минске в условиях, адекватных его статусу представителя великой державы и самым высоким международным стандартам. Достигнутое на этот счет согласие могло бы быть закреплено в соответствующих документах, гарантирующих права и обязанности сторон.

Хочу со всей определенностью подчеркнуть безусловную приверженность Республики Беларусь духу и букве положений Венской Конвенции о дипломатических сношениях 1961 года и других международных правовых актов, регулирующих функционирование дипломатических представительств.

Надеюсь на Ваше, Господин Президент, содействие в урегулировании возникшего конфликта, создающего препятствия на пути последовательной интеграции Беларуси в мировое сообщество государств, следующих принципам демократии и рыночной экономики. Сегодня есть все объективные условия для развития белорусско-американских отношений в духе взаимоуважения, тесного торгово-экономического и политического сотрудничества, основанного на суверенитете и соблюдении принципа невмешательства во внутренние дела друг друга.

Пользуясь случаем, прошу Вас, Господин Президент, принять уверения в моем самом высоком уважении.

Александр Лукашенко



S/S 9820670

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 30, 1998

**Memorandum for: Mr. Glyn T. Davies
Executive Secretary
National Security Council Staff
The White House**

Subject: Alerting NSCS on Presidential Correspondence

Enclosed is the original of a letter to President Clinton from

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko

**which is transmitted for your information. This correspondence was received in the
Records Management Division of the Executive Secretariat on Nov. 30, 1998
A copy has been assigned to the appropriate bureau for action.**

**Chief, S/S-RMD
Records Management Division
Executive Secretariat
(202) 647-0053**

NOV 30 16:12

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus 9820670
1619 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

No 1246-n

Washington, D.C.
November 23, 1998

The Embassy of the Republic of Belarus presents its compliments to the U.S. Department of State and has the honour to convey herewith the text and its unofficial translation of the letter of President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko to President of the United States of America William Jefferson Clinton.

The Embassy has the honour to request the U.S. Department of State to convey the text of the letter to the White House. The original letter will be delivered by the Embassy later.

The Embassy of the Republic of Belarus avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the U.S. Department of State assurances of its highest consideration.

U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20520



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9808043

REFERRAL

DATE: 03 DEC 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

DATE: 20 NOV 98

SUBJ: LTR RE RELOCATION OF US AMB RESIDENCE IN BELARUS

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DUE DATE: 05 DEC 98

COMMENT:


FOR JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 9808043
DATE 20 NOV 98

SUBJECT: LTR RE RELOCATION OF US AMB RESIDENCE IN BELARUS
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	DATE	TIME	SIGNATURE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ROOM 7224 2201 C STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20520 DEPARTMENT OF STATE	_____	_____	_____
			PRINT LAST NAME: _____
			COPY: <u>1</u> _____

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS
Initials: VR Date: 2/9/2017
2016-0723-M

DATE, TIME, SIGN THE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO: NSC RECORDS MGNT, ROOM 379 OEOB
PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES

Barnett, Cheryl E.

From: Segal, Jack D.
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 1998 2:18 PM
To: Barnett, Cheryl E.
Subject: FW: Letter from Lukashenko (#9808043) [UNCLASSIFIED]

Cheryl: I have informally told State that the action has been shifted. we need to clear the record based on Glyn Davies e-mail. Thanks, Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Davies, Glyn T.
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 1998 10:41 AM
To: Segal, Jack D.
Subject: RE: Letter from Lukashenko (#9808043) [UNCLASSIFIED]

Agree.

-----Original Message-----

From: Segal, Jack D.
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 1998 10:33 AM
To: Davies, Glyn T.
Subject: FW: Letter from Lukashenko (#9808043) [UNCLASSIFIED]

Glyn:

I don't think POTUS should be replying to Lukashenko directly. Luke is bound to find some way to misuse the response to suggest that all is well between us. Luke has evicted, embarrassed and ridiculed our ambassador (all in one day, no less!).

Recommend we shift the response to Amb. Pickering, as Carlos suggests. That act alone would help put Luke in his place. OK? Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Pascual, Carlos E.
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 1998 8:52 PM
To: Segal, Jack D.
Cc: Silva, Mary Ann T.; Barnett, Cheryl E.
Subject: RE: Letter from Lukashenko (#9808043) [UNCLASSIFIED]

what about response from Pickering? check with Glyn Davies if Exec Sec will buy off; if so, check with Ross

-----Original Message-----

From: Segal, Jack D.
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 1998 1:48 PM
To: Pascual, Carlos E.
Cc: Silva, Mary Ann T.; Barnett, Cheryl E.
Subject: Letter from Lukashenko (#9808043) [UNCLASSIFIED]

Carlos: I presume you want me to draft a reply. Must it be from the President? One way to signal our displeasure would be to have MKA respond.

JS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9808043
RECEIVED: 30 NOV 98 16

TO: DAVIES

FROM: KENNEY, K

DOC DATE: 17 FEB 99
SOURCE REF: 9820670

KEYWORDS: BELARUS

HS

PERSONS: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR

SUBJECT: STATE DIRECT REPLY TO LTR FM PRES OF BELARUS

ACTION: RECD S/S DIRECT REPLY

DUE DATE: 11 DEC 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SEGAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
NSC CHRON
SEGAL

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YR NARA, Date 2/4/2017
2016-0823-11

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTTS

CLOSED BY: NSTTS

DOC 2 OF 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9808043

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 PASCUAL	Z 98113016 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
001	Z 98120114 ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 SEGAL	Z 98120114 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
001 STATE	X 98120315 DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY
002	X 99022209 RECD S/S DIRECT REPLY

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

<u>DOC</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR ACTION</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR INFO</u>
001	981120	STATE	

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9820670

DATE February 17, 1999

FOR: Mr. Glyn T. Davies
Executive Secretary
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President
FROM: Aleksandr Lukashenko (President of Belarus)
DATE: 20 Nov 98
SUBJECT: Ltr re Relocation of US Amb Residence in Belarus

WH Referral Dated: 03 Dec 98
NSC ID# (if any): 9808043

_____ The attached item was sent directly to Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- _____ A draft reply is attached.
- _____ A draft reply will be forwarded.
- _____ A translation is attached.
- XX _____ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- _____ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
- _____ The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
- _____ Other (see remarks).

EB 22 7:30 REMARKS:

Kristie A. Kenney
Office of the
Executive Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

January 29, 1999

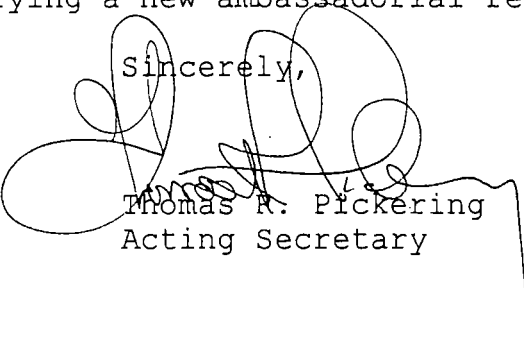
Dear Mr. Minister:

Thank you for your letter of January 12 to Secretary Albright conveying assurances by the Belarusian government concerning the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and compensation in regard to our official residence in Drozdy. I also wish to acknowledge President Lukashenko's earlier letter to President Clinton and former Foreign Minister Antonovich's letter to Secretary Albright on this subject. Please accept this letter as my reply on their behalf.

We appreciate the assurances in your letter regarding the Belarusian government's recognition of and commitment to the important principle of the inviolability of diplomatic missions. As you note, this means the absolute territorial integrity of diplomatic properties and diplomatic residents' free enjoyment of their premises, including unhindered access for them and their guests.

I share your desire to put bilateral relations between our countries on a more normal basis. Our governments can do much to make this possible by working together in the coming weeks to resolve the remaining issues relating to our Drozdy residence. We will be following up with you shortly with a proposal to initiate discussion on the issues of compensation and identifying a new ambassadorial residence.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Pickering
Acting Secretary

His Excellency
Ural Latypov,
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Belarus,
Minsk.

Fi

9820670

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9808043

REFERRAL

DATE: 03 DEC 98

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: PRESIDENT
SOURCE: LUKASHENKO, ALEKSANDR
DATE: 20 NOV 98
SUBJ: LTR RE RELOCATION OF US AMB RESIDENCE IN BELARUS

REQUIRED ACTION: DIRECT REPLY FURNISH INFO COPY

DUE DATE: 05 DEC 98

COMMENT:


FOR JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

0700
12-7
CATHOLMES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(Translation)

LS No. 1290307
CT/PH
Russian

PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Minsk, 20 November 1998

Dear Mr. President:

Attributing great importance to the development and improvement of Belarusian-U.S. relations, I decided to write you this letter, as I am convinced that those relations should not be put into jeopardy by some relatively minor issues. Existing misunderstandings can be addressed and overcome through an honest and open dialogue.

I daresay that continuation of the prolonged dispute that our foreign affairs agencies have been conducting recently on the legal validity of claims of this or that party with regard to the location of the private residence of the U.S. Ambassador, is hardly in the interest of either state, especially within the context of the current complex geopolitical situation in the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

The fact that the private residences of the U.S. Ambassador and the heads of the diplomatic missions of Germany, France, Italy, and some other countries are situated

His Excellency
William J. Clinton,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.

on the grounds of the residence of the President of the Republic of Belarus naturally restricts free access to them.

In this situation we are offering to your Ambassador as well as to the ambassadors of the aforementioned countries a fairly extensive choice of apartments and houses, and giving them the option of building their own residences in Minsk.

The Belarusian side is ready to undertake everything necessary in order to ensure that the Ambassador of the United States of America—our relations with which are among the main priorities of our foreign policy—has conditions in Minsk that correspond to his status of representative of a great power and meet the highest international standards. Agreement in this regard could be confirmed in appropriate documents, setting forth the parties' rights and obligations.

I would like to stress conclusively the unconditional adherence of the Republic of Belarus to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and other international legal instruments that regulate the functioning of diplomatic missions.

I hope, Mr. President, for your assistance in resolving the current conflict, which creates obstacles in the way of consistent integration of Belarus into the world community of states which follow the principles of democracy and the market economy. Today there are all the objective conditions for the development of Belarusian-U.S. relations in the spirit of mutual respect, close trade ties, and economic and political cooperation based on sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Mr. President, of my highest consideration.

Alexander Lukashenko

Translated from Russian

«PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Minsk, 20 November 1998

Dear Mr. President,

Attributing great importance to the development and improvement of the Belarusian-American relations I decided to address you with this letter as I am convinced that they should not be put into jeopardy by some relatively minor issues. Existing misunderstanding can be addressed and overcome through an honest and open dialogue.

I dare say that continuation of the prolonged dispute on legal validity of claims of this or that party with regard to the location of the private residence of the US Ambassador in which our foreign agencies have been involved recently is hardly in the interest of either state, especially so within the context of the current complex geopolitical situation in the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

The fact that the private residences of the US Ambassador and the heads of diplomatic missions of Germany, France, Italy and of some other countries are situated on the territory of the residence of the President of the Republic of Belarus naturally restricts free access to them.

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I would like to stress with utmost determination the unconditional adherence of the Republic of Belarus to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 and other international legal instruments which regulate the functioning of diplomatic missions.

I hope, Mr. President, for your assistance in solving the current conflict which creates obstacles in the way of consistent integration of Belarus into the world community of states which follow the principles of democracy and market economy. Today there are all objective conditions for the development of the Belarusian-American relations in the spirit of mutual respect, close trade, economic and political cooperation based on sovereignty and the principle of non-interference into internal affairs of each other.

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Alexander Lukashenko

The Honourable William J. Clinton
President of the United States of America
Washington, D.C.»

Президент
Республики Беларусь

9820670

Минск, 20 ноября 1998 года

Уважаемый Господин Президент,

Придавая важное значение развитию и совершенствованию белорусско-американских отношений, решил обратиться к Вам с письмом, ибо убежден, что они не должны усложняться из-за относительно частных вопросов. Возникшие недоразумения могут быть рассмотрены и преодолены путем честного, открытого диалога.

Полагаю, что продолжение затянувшегося спора, который ведут наши внешнеполитические ведомства по поводу юридической обоснованности претензий той или иной стороны к размещению частной резиденции Посла США, вряд ли отвечает интересам обоих государств, особенно в контексте нынешней непростой геополитической обстановки в регионе Центральной и Восточной Европы.

Нахождение частных резиденций Посла США и глав дипломатических миссий Германии, Франции, Италии и некоторых других стран на территории, являющейся резиденцией Президента Республики Беларусь, естественно ограничивает свободный доступ к ним.

В этих условиях мы предлагаем Вашему Послу, а также послам упомянутых стран достаточно широкий выбор квартир, частных домов, а также предоставляем возможность самим строить резиденции в Минске.

Его Превосходительству
Господину Уильяму Дж.Клинтону,
Президенту Соединенных Штатов Америки,
Вашингтон

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Александр Лукашенко



S/S 9820670

United States Department of State

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Records Management Division
Executive Secretariat
(202) 647-0053**

Embassy of the Republic of Belarus
1619 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

9820670

No 1246-n

Washington, D.C.
November 23, 1998

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2201 C Street, N.W.
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