MEMORANDUM FOR: John A. Gordon  (GORDON)
                Daniel B. Poneman  (PONEMAN)
FROM:  Susan J. Koch  (KOCH)
SUBJECT: Kazakhstan as Nuclear State?

In case you thought that things weren't out of control.
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

20-Mar-1992 09:39 EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM: (WHSR_ROUTER@WHSR)

SUBJECT: NO SUBJECT FOUND

DIST
BIT: BURNS HEWETT KOCH SANNER

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KAZAKHSTAN TO RETAIN STRATEGIC N-ARMS AS 'BARGAINING COUNTER'
AU2003134492 PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH 1339 GMT 20 MAR 92

[TEXT] ROME, MARCH 20 (AFP) -- KAZAKHSTAN INTENDS TO USE THE
STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYED ON ITS TERRITORY AS A BARGAINING
COUNTER IN ARMS REDUCTION TALKS, PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED HERE FRIDAY. THE WEAPONS WILL NOT BE
DESTROYED IN ORDER THAT KAZAKHSTAN "WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN
STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS TALKS ALONG WITH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED
STATES", NAZARBAYEV TOLD THE LA STAMPA DAILY.

"KAZAKHSTAN DID NOT BECOME AN ATOMIC POWER BY ITS OWN WILL",
NAZARBAYEV COMMENTED.

"ON OUR TERRITORY AT SEMIPALATINSK, FROM 1949 ONWARDS, 467
NUCLEAR TESTS WERE CARRIED OUT. WE WANT TO BECOME A DENUCLEARISED
STATE, AND WE HAVE CLOSED SEMIPALATINSK. BUT AS REGARDS THE
STRATEGIC MISSILES, WE HAVE ASKED FOR THE STATUS QUO."

NAZARBAYEV ARGUED THAT KAZAKHSTAN "IS ENTITLED TO BELONG TO THE
NUCLEAR CLUB BECAUSE TESTS ON ITS TERRITORY WERE BEING CARRIED OUT
18 MONTHS BEFORE THE SIGNING OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
TREATY" IN MAY 1968.

EARLIER THIS YEAR KAZAKHSTAN, ALONG WITH UKRAINE AND BELARUS,
AGREED TO TRANSFER ALL TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO RUSSIA WHERE THEY
WOULD BE DISMANTLED AND DESTROYED BY RUSSIAN EXPERTS.

NAZARBAYEV TOLD LA STAMPA THAT "THE TRANSFER TO RUSSIA WOULD COST
BILLIONS OF RUBLES WHICH KAZAKHSTAN DOES NOT HAVE". HE ADDED THAT
THERE WAS "NO CONTROL MECHANISM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

"COMMON SENSE REQUIRES THAT THE REDUCTION IN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH THE DEFENSIVE NEEDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (OF INDEPENDENT STATES), NOTIONS WHICH UNFORTUNATELY DO NOT FOR THE MOMENT EXIST", HE CONCLUDED.

20 MAR 1401Z MM
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