

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Boris Yeltsin, President of
Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State
Richard Cheney, Secretary of Defense
Samuel K. Skinner, Chief of Staff
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
Robert Strauss, Ambassador to Russia
Dennis Ross, Director, Policy Planning Staff,
Department of State
Lewis Libby, Principle Deputy for Strategy
and Resources, Department of Defense
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff (notetaker)

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Boris Yeltsin, President
Andrey Kozyrev, Foreign Minister
Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, Commander in
Chief, CIS Armed Forces
Yevgeniy Velikov, Vice President of the
Russian Academy of Sciences
Vladimir Lukin, Chairman, Foreign Affairs
Committee, Russian Parliament
Ambassador Vorontsov, Ambassador to UN
Mr. Ryurikov (notetaker)
Mr. Ilyushin, Head of Secretariat
Mr. Volkogonov, Military Advisor
Mr. Voschanov, Press Secretary

DATE, TIME February 1, 1992, 11:15am - 12:35pm
AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: Welcome everybody to Camp David. Let me say at the outset that President Yeltsin and I had a good talk together. I had the opportunity to invite him for a State visit to the U.S. We left the timing open. It will probably not be April but will be before the G-7 meeting in July. We left it to our people to get together and discuss. President Yeltsin invited me to Moscow and I said I would visit before the end of the year. Mr. President, let me suggest that you take the floor keeping in mind that we have a press conference at 1:10 p.m. So, we should

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General Scowcroft: Mr. President, some of our firms have offered to buy their uranium. (S)

The President: Before Jim Baker's trip, let's look into this and then let us present our thoughts to you. We'll try to see whether there is a market. (S)

President Yeltsin: Good! Any other questions? (U)

Secretary Baker: I think we figured out why you thought the President's strategic proposal was unbalanced. We think you computed the SLBM reductions from current levels. In the President's proposal, we come down by one third from the post-START level. If we do that, we would be roughly equal at 2300 warheads. (S)

President Yeltsin: Okay, I am clear on that. I had thought the reverse. Now, on the next question -- disposal of nuclear weapons. We think the problem of dismantling tactical nuclear weapons is manageable. We shall take the weapons by air to storage facilities and store them there -- land, sea and air missiles. We do not now have storage facilities but this should not be complicated, not like a facility for enriched uranium would be. (S)

We want a joint program on destruction. We don't have enough facilities to deal with all the weapons for the time period of the treaty. We have facilities at Chelyabinsk and Chapayev (sp.). They are for all dismantling and disposal. (S)

On the brain drain, we have 2,000 nuclear experts. These are our best minds. There are maybe 3,000 lower grade experts. They make 800-1000 rubles per month. I have ordered all of their pay to be increased to 5,000 rubles per month. If we launch a joint program, we can provide employment for many of them. For example, we could have joint space research and cooperation in building an orbital station. We could suggest the Soyuz 10 system for transportation. Boeing is interested in joining this but Congress will have to appropriate some funds. Our scientists are interested. (S)

Mr. Velikov: The situation is such that the U.S. program for an orbital station has no system to save astronauts. We have a transportation module for that. The cost of developing one would be reduced if you use our system. Boeing approached us and we are prepared to go ahead. (S)

The President: Good. This is a good development. On destruction of missiles, Jim Baker will talk to you in detail but where do we stand on space cooperation? (S)

General Scowcroft: We have looked at it. (S)

The President: I want to take a hard look at it. Brent, raise it with the space people. (S)

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General Scowcroft: Yes, sir. (U)

President Yeltsin: Good! I understand Jim Baker wants to add something on the destruction of nuclear missiles. (S)

Secretary Baker: When Reg Bartholomew was in Moscow, he made good progress on collection, storage and disabling. When I come, we will communicate specific ideas on cooperation in destruction. (S)

The President: I received a call from Helmut Kohl this morning. I think he felt excluded since he was not at the UNSC meeting. His message to me for you was that the Germans are interested in this issue and he asked me to convey that to you. The Germans are also supportive of our initiatives on strategic reductions. (S)

President Yeltsin: Good. We are working with the three Commonwealth states on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We are calling on them to sign the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states. The nuclear weapons are not yet removed from their soil. On February 14, I believe we will convince the leaders of the three countries of the critical importance of signing the NPT. Kazakhstan has Iraq for a neighbor. This is a danger. We appreciate this danger. So, an early signing is essential. We are hurrying to remove tactical nuclear weapons first from Kazakhstan to prevent them from falling into Islamic hands. But the strategic weapons cannot be removed -- it is technically not feasible. (S)

Secretary Baker: The President wrote to President Nazarbaev about Kazakhstan's acceding to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapons state. When we were there in December, he gave us assurances on this if we supported Kazakhstan's accession to the UN and CSCE. That is now happening so we are hopeful they will sign. (S)

President Yeltsin: On February 14, I believe we will have their agreement. Yesterday, I met with Boutros Ghali. He assured me that the first meeting of the UNGA will vote for membership of all the Commonwealth states. The UNSC has already recommended them. I asked yesterday in my statement for their admission. (S)

The President: I don't think there will be much of an objection to that. (S)

Secretary Baker: Georgia and Azerbaijan haven't applied yet. (U)

Ambassador Vorontsov: That's right. (U)

President Yeltsin: We have some questions to ask Azerbaijan. We have no bilateral treaty with them. But there are problems -- violations of human rights and other problems. We removed the internal troops and will remove all of the Commonwealth troops from there soon. (S)

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