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(Grossman)
December 31, 1992
TOAST
Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MOSCOW TOAST
 SOCHI, RUSSIA
 JANUARY 2, 1992
 TIME -- TBD

[Acknowledgements] Mr. President, this is a moment I will never forget. As I leave the Presidency, I bid farewell to a man with whom I shared some of its greatest triumphs. A man who stood upon a Russian tank and straddled Russian history: steering it toward a democratic future. A voice: that spoke loudly for freedom through the chaos of change, and softly of friendship through the static of a telephone line. A patriot who silenced the guns of August.

Like all the moments that make life worth living, this one is brew of sadness and joy. I am leaving a friend, but securing a friendship: the U.S.-Russian Charter we signed last June affirmed our dedication to a democratic peace. The two powers that once divided the world came together to make it a better place: strategically, politically, economically. Now we come together again: to cut loose that Damoclean sword, and bury it in the sands of history. \\

[[Incidentally, most of you here will probably remember the Doomsday Clock. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists set it up, and placed the hands at 7 minutes to midnight -- never imagining a time it might be more than a quarter to. Well, when we signed START I they set it back to 17. I was wondering how far START II would set it back, so I asked one of my staff to call their

offices. \ She got a recording. The keepers of the clock are off celebrating Christmas and New Year's. \\ My friends, the Cold War is over.]]

But being at peace with others and being at peace with ourselves are different things. The one you have achieved. The other you can, and will. Reform will not be easy -- this America understands. But your people do not run from a challenge -- this America has always understood. Change will take time. But do not let an impatience for democracy become a tool for its enemies. As Tolstoy once said: "The Russians harness their horses very slowly, but they ride with great speed." I look forward to a day when our countries ride together.

Perhaps it will be "two steps forward, one step back." But this much is certain, we have seen the future...and it is free. I raise my glass to toast that future, and this friend. To a year of hope for the Russian people.

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