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THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary (Moscow, Russia)

For
Immediate Release September 2, 1998 PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT CLINTON
AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN Catherine Hall The Kremlin Moscow, Russia 1:17 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the official visit of the President of the United States Bill Clinton to Russia is coming to an end. We have had intensive, productive negotiations. We have managed to discuss a wide range of topical issues. I would like to emphasize the exchanges were sincere and keen. The dialogue was marked by the spirit of mutual understanding. Responsibility of our two countries for maintaining and strengthening peace and stability is obvious. That is why we have paid special attention to the discussion of the entire spectrum of security issues in the world.

The discussion has included the implementation of international and bilateral treaties and agreements concerning the weapons of mass destruction, as well as the elaboration of common approaches to dealing with the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation and their delivery means. Unfortunately, this is not the only major task the humanity struggles to resolve. That is why President Clinton and I have discussed global threats and challenges. Our positions on this issue have coincided and this closeness of approaches is reflected in the joint statement on common security changes on the threshold of the 21st century.

I consider this document to be a significant step towards strengthening strategic partnership between Russia and the United States. We have also had substantial talks on the most topical international issues. And there are quite a few such issues. I'll put it frankly; here our approaches have not always completely coincided. Russia rejects the use of power methods as a matter of principle. Conflicts of today have no military solutions, be it in Kosovo or around Iraq or Afghanistan or others.

Also we do not accept the NATO centrism idea for the new European security architecture. Nevertheless, our talks have been conducive to greater mutual understanding on these issues. Of course, we could not do without discussing economy problems. Current dimensions of our economic relations should be brought up to a qualitatively new level. We shall have to suffer through much blood, sweat, and tears before new forms of business cooperation worthy of our two great powers are found, reforms that would be able to withstand volatile circumstances.

There exist quite a few opportunities for this. These are mentioned in our joint statement on economic issues. In conclusion, I would like to say -- and I hope Bill will agree with me -- the summit was a success. This meeting, the 15th in a row, confirmed once again when Presidents of Russia and the United States join their efforts, no issue is too big for them. Thank you for your kind attention.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your hospitality and for giving Hillary and me and our team the chance to come to Moscow again. Over the past five years I have been in this great, historic city in times of bright hope and times of uncertainty. But throughout, I have witnessed the remarkable transformation of this nation to democracy and to a

more open economy. We all know that this meeting comes at a challenging time for the Russian people.

But I don't believe anyone could ever have doubted that there would be obstacles on Russia's road to a vibrant economy and a strong democracy. I don't -- also believe that anyone can seriously doubt the determination of the Russian people to build a brighter, better, stronger future. Russia is important to America. Our economies are connected; we share values, interests and friendship. We share security interests and heavy security responsibilities. In our discussions, President Yeltsin and I spoke about Russia's options for stabilizing its economy and restoring confidence. I reaffirmed America's strong view that Russia can move beyond today's crisis and create growth and good jobs, but only if it carries forward with its transformation, with a strong and fair tax system, greater rule of law, dealing forthrightly with financial institutions, having regulation that protects against abuses, and yes, developing an appropriate safety net for people who are hurt during times of change.

President Yeltsin reaffirmed his commitment to reform, and I believe that is the right commitment. The answer to the present difficulties is to finish the job that has been begun, not to stop it in mid-stream or to reverse course. This is a view I will reaffirm when I meet today with leaders of the Duma and the Federation Council. America and the international community are, I am convinced, ready to offer further assistance if Russia stays with the path of reform. We discussed also at length common security concerns. We've reached an important agreement to increase the safety of all our people, an arrangement under which our countries will give each other continuous information on worldwide launches of ballistic missiles or space-launched vehicles detected by our respective early warning systems.

This will reduce the possibility of nuclear war by mistake or accident, and give us information about missile activity by other countries. We've also agreed to remove from each of our nuclear weapons program approximately 50 tons of plutonium -- enough to make literally thousands of nuclear devices. Once converted, this plutonium can never again be used to make weapons that become lethal in the wrong hands. Our experts will begin meeting right away to finalize an implementation plan by the end of this year. I'd like to say in passing, I'm very grateful for the support this initiative received in our Congress. We have four members of Congress here with us today, and I especially thank Senator Domenici for his interest in this issue. Next let me say I look forward to, and hope very much that the Russian Duma will approve START II so that we can negotiate a START III agreement that would cut our levels of arsenals down to one-fifth of Cold War levels.

I think that would be good for our mutual security and good for the Russian economy. In recent months Russia has taken important steps to tighten its export controls on weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to deliver them, and to penalize offenders. This week Russia barred three companies from transactions with Iran. Today we agreed to intensify our cooperation by creating seven working groups on export controls to further strengthen Russia's ability to halt the spread of dangerous weapons. Also, we renewed our commitment to persuade India and Pakistan to reverse their arms race. And we pledged to accelerate international negotiations to establish a tough inspection regime of the Biological Weapons Convention. I don't believe it's possible to overstate the importance of this initiative for the next 20 years. Russia and the United States

share a commitment to combat terrorism. We agree that there is no possible justification for terrorism; it is murder, plain and simple.

Today, we instructed our Foreign Ministers to develop a plan to deepen our cooperation against this danger to our own people and to innocent people around the world. We agreed on the importance of further strengthening the partnership between NATO and Russia through practical cooperation. We plan to accelerate talks on adapting the treaty that limits conventional military forces in Europe, the CFE, to reflect changes in Europe since the treaty was signed in 1990, with an aim to complete an adapted treaty by the 1999 summit of the OSCE. Finally, we discussed our common foreign policy agenda, including, first and foremost, the need to continue to strengthen the peace in Bosnia and to look for a peaceful solution in Kosovo, where the humanitarian situation is now quite grave.

We agreed that the Serbian government must stop all repressive actions against civilian populations, allow relief organizations immediate and full access to those in need, and pursue an interim settlement. President Yeltsin and I also agreed that Iraq must comply fully with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions imposed after the Gulf War, and in particular, must agree to allow the international weapons inspectors to again pursue their mission without obstruction or delay. Far from advancing the day sanctions are lifted, Iraq's most recent efforts to undermine the inspectors will perpetuate sanctions, prevent Iraq from acquiring the resources it needs to rebuild its military, and keep Iraq's economy under tight international control.

On energy and the environment, we reiterated our commitment to the emissions reductions targets and the market-based mechanisms established at Kyoto to slow the dangerous process of global warming. We agreed that multiple pipeline routes were essential to bring energy from the Caspian to international markets and to advance our common security and commercial interests. This has been a full agenda, a productive summit. Again, let me say that I have great confidence that the people of this great nation can move through this present difficult moment to continue and complete the astonishing process of democratization and modernization that I have been privileged to witness at close hand over the last five and a half years. Again, Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. And I suppose we should answer a few questions.

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary (Helsinki, Finland)

For

Immediate Release March 21, 1997 PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENT CLINTON AND
PRESIDENT YELTSIN Kalastaja Torppa Helsinki, Finland 6:45 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Let me say that President Yeltsin and I will have opening statements, and then we'll begin alternating questions, first with a question from the Russian press and then the American press, and then back and forth. I would like to begin by thanking President Ahtsaari, Prime Minister Lipponen, all the people of Finland for their very gracious hospitality to President Yeltsin and to me, and for the extremely constructive role that Finland plays in a new era for Europe.

This is my first meeting with President Yeltsin in each of our second terms, our 11th meeting overall. At each meeting we have strengthened our nations' relationship and laid a firmer foundation for peace and security, freedom and prosperity in the 21st century. Here in Helsinki we have addressed three fundamental challenges: first, building an undivided, democratic and peaceful Europe for the first time in history; second, continuing to lead the world away from the nuclear threat; and third, forging new ties of trade and investment that will help Russia to complete its remarkable transformation to a market economy and will bring greater prosperity to both our peoples.

A Europe undivided and democratic must be a secure Europe. NATO is the bedrock of Europe's security and the tie that binds the United States to that security. That is why the United States has led the way in adapting NATO to new missions, in opening its doors to new members, in strengthening its ties to non-members through the Partnership for Peace, in seeking to forge a strong, practical partnership between NATO and Russia. We are building a new NATO just as the Russian people are building a new Russia. I am determined that Russia will become a respected partner with NATO in making the future for all of Europe peaceful and secure. I reaffirmed that NATO enlargement in the Madrid summit will proceed and President Yeltsin made it clear that he thinks it's a mistake. But we also have an important and, I believe, overriding agreement.

We agreed that the relationship between the United States and Russia and the benefits of cooperation between NATO and Russia are too important to be jeopardized. We didn't come here expecting to change each other's mind about our disagreement, but we both did come here hoping to find a way of shifting the accent from our disagreement to the goals, the tasks and the opportunities we share. And we have succeeded. President Yeltsin and I agree that NATO Secretary General Solana and Russian Foreign Minister Primakov should try to complete negotiations on a NATO-Russian document in the coming weeks. It would include a forum for regular consultations that would allow NATO and Russia to work and to act together as we are doing today in Bosnia.

It would demonstrate that a new Russia and a new NATO are partners, not adversaries, in bringing a brighter future to Europe. We also agreed that our negotiators and those of the other 28 participating states should accelerate their efforts in Vienna to adapt the CFE treaty to the

post-Cold War era by setting new limits on conventional forces. The second area of our discussion involved our obligation to continue to lead the world away from the dangers of weapons of mass destruction. We have already taken important steps. We signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We extended a nonproliferation treaty. We stopped targeting each other's cities and citizens. We put START I into force. And we're both committed to securing ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention before it goes into force next month, so that we can finally begin to banish poison gas from the Earth.

Today, President Yeltsin agreed to seek the Dumas' prompt ratification of START II, already ratified by the United States Senate. But we will not stop there. The United States is prepared to open negotiations on further strategic arms cuts with Russia under a START III immediately after the Duma ratifies START II. President Yeltsin and I agreed on guidelines for START III negotiations that will cap at 2,000 to 2,500 the number of strategic nuclear warheads each of our countries would retain, and to finish the reductions of START III by the year 2007. Now, think about it. This means that within a decade we will have reduced both sides' strategic nuclear arsenals by 80 percent below their Cold War peak of just five years ago. We also reached agreement in our work to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, a cornerstone of our arms control efforts. Distinguishing between ballistic missile systems restricted by the ABM treaty and theater missile defenses that are not restricted has been a very difficult issue to resolve.

Today, after three year of negotiations, we agreed to preserve the ABM treaty while giving each of us the ability to develop defenses against theater missiles. Finally, we discussed our economic relationship in the fact that the strong and secure Russia we welcome as a full partner for the 21st century requires that the benefits of democracy and free markets must be felt by Russia's citizens. President Yeltsin recently demonstrated his determination to reinvigorate economic reform in his State of the Federation address and with the appointment of a vigorous new economic team. His bold agenda to improve the investment climate and stimulate growth includes comprehensive tax reform, new energy laws, and tough anti-crime legislation. To help American companies take advantage of new opportunities in Russia, we will mobilize support to help finance billions of dollars in new investment. We will work with Russia to advance its membership in key international economic institutions like the WTO, the Paris Club, and the OECD.

And I am pleased to announce, with the approval of the other G-7 nations, that we will substantially increase Russia's role in our annual meeting, now to be called the Summit of the 8, in Denver this June. Here in Helsinki, we have proved once again that we can work together to resolve our differences, to seize our opportunities, to build a better future. Before I turn the microphone over to President Yeltsin, let me say one word about the bombing today in Tel Aviv, which we have both been discussing in the last few minutes. Once again, an act of terror has brought death and injury to the people of Israel. I condemn it, and I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of those who were killed or injured. There is no place for such acts of terror and violence in the peace process. There must be absolutely no doubt in the minds of the friends or of the enemies of peace that the Palestinian Authority is unalterably opposed to terror and unalterably committed to preempting and preventing such acts. This is essential to negotiating a meaningful and lasting peace. And I will do what I can to achieve that object.

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary (Moscow, Russia)

For
Immediate Release April 21, 1996 PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND
PRESIDENT YELTSIN The Kremlin Moscow, Russia 2:42 P.M. (L)

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Dear members of the press, ladies and gentlemen, our discussion with the President of the United States of America lasted sufficiently long, about five hours, and in substance, became the continuation of the discussions that were started within the G-7, issues which we discussed within the 8, and today's meeting also to a great extent coincided. First of all, this was security; regional stability was also discussed in the bilats. I think that today's discussion gave a rather large contribution to the successes of the G-7 in Moscow in the security area.

Discussions of a whole series of issues on nuclear security and how to move ahead on START II, to strengthen the ABM Treaty of 1972. We now have rather good schedules on what Russia has to do, what the United States has to do by October of this year. We've reached progress on European security as well. In May, we have an important meeting which should be dedicated to reviewing the CFE Treaty and forces in Europe. We agreed to work in this area and to concentrate more in the future on the wording of the treaty itself. You'll probably have questions at this.

Our two countries as cosponsors of the Middle East peace process we discussed in great detail. We discussed the situation in Israel and Lebanon. They were discussed also at the meeting of the 8 and now the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of our countries are continuing talk. We're constantly in touch with them, and today we summarized a bit on some of the decisions reached. Russia and the United States play a key role in the settlement in Bosnia. Our peacekeeping troop units are working very well.

We have to reinvigorate this and aim it at nonmilitary aspects of the settlement, such as holding elections, providing for human rights and rebuilding the destroyed areas. I want to especially underscore here the fact that the elections do not interfere with the long-term cooperation between our two countries. I mean, our presidential elections do not stand in the way. Our policies allow us to speak about various issues and we have a practice now and a tradition with Bill to hold normal, regular meetings whenever we meet, and whenever we make comments to each other and react to each other's statement.

This is as any family would have it. There are sometimes comments made to each other -- these issues at least have no ideological nature whatsoever. The United States and Russia are great powers. It's not just for us to get involved with big global issues, but we look out for our own interests. In today's meeting, we have defined more carefully our policies, our tasks. We have established on the basis of equality -- we've added the words "on the basis of equality" in our cooperation, which is in confidence with the interest of our two countries. And in the majority of cases, the lion's share of cases, others support both us and the United States in all of this. Our partners all have interest and see interest in the positive development of U.S.-Russia relations.

They view our relationship as a factor which promotes international cooperation. This is very good. Next week, I'm going to China. There, I plan to touch upon many of the issues which we discussed yesterday and today in Moscow. I'm counting on understanding from the Chinese. I want to say that I'm very pleased with my discussion with the President of the United States, and I hope that Bill will also express his points of view, how he assesses our meeting today. Thank you, Bill.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much, President Yeltsin. Ladies and gentlemen, just a few years ago the mere fact of a meeting between the American and Russian Presidents was news. But this is my third trip to Moscow as President and my 10th meeting with President Yeltsin. So now the news is no longer that we are meeting, but instead, what we're meeting about and what is being done for the benefit of our people. After this meeting there is much to report. First, let me thank President Yeltsin for initiating and then hosting yesterday's Nuclear Summit. It is fitting that this summit was held in Moscow.

For three years, the President and I have worked together in trying to make the world a safer place by reducing the nuclear threat that all our citizens face. Because of those efforts, Russian and American missiles are no longer pointed at each other's cities or citizens. We've both made deep cuts in our nuclear arsenals by putting START I into force. And we'll make even deeper cuts when the Duma ratifies START II. We've worked with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan to dismantle nuclear weapons on their land.

And yesterday, with other world leaders, we took important steps to make nuclear materials more secure so they don't fall into the wrong hands, to make the civilian use of nuclear power safer, and to strongly support the passage of a comprehensive test ban treaty this year. The United States and Russia are also working together to promote peace in the world's most troubled regions. The President and I reviewed the situation in Bosnia where our troops are serving side-by-side to help its people rebuilt their land and their lives. As cosponsors of the Middle East peace process we discussed the terrible outbreak of violence in Lebanon and Northern Israel. We agree on the need to secure a cease-fire to stop the violence, and, as all of you know, our Foreign Ministers are both in the region as we speak.

The best way to prevent violence from returning is to continue implementing the agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and to secure a comprehensive peace in the region that includes Lebanon and Syria. The political and the security partnership between our nations is strengthened by our growing commercial ties. We've worked hard to take down the old barriers to trade and to investment. Thanks to President Yeltsin's leadership, 60 percent of Russia's economy is now in the hands of its people, not the state; inflation has been cut, democracy is taking hold. Since 1993, trade between the United States and Russia is up 65 percent. And the U.S. is now the largest foreign investor in this great nation. That's helping to create more good jobs and new opportunities in both our countries.

The President and I also discussed areas in which we have differences, as he mentioned. The flank issue of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty is one of them. But we are working hard to find a solution to that that is acceptable to all parties prior to the review conference in May, and I can say with confidence that we did move closer to that goal today. We also made

important progress in distinguishing between antiballistic missile systems that are limited by the ABM Treaty and theater missile defenses which are not. As a result, we'll send our negotiators back to Geneva next month with the aim of concluding an initial demarkation agreement this June.

From St. Petersburg to Moscow, these last three days have allowed me and our entire American delegation to see the richness of Russia's past, the achievements of its present, and the promise of its future. I want the Russian people to know how much the American people support Russia's commitment to democracy and to reform. We've learned from our history that building a thriving democracy is not easy or automatic, but Russia is making dramatic progress, as evidence by the Duma elections last December and the coming presidential elections this June. This is a time of real possibility and opportunity to make our people more prosperous and more secure. The United States wants a strong, stabile and open Russia, to work with us as equal partners in seizing those opportunities and turning the challenges of a new era in the common solutions. Thank you.

For

Immediate Release May 10, 1995 REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE Press Conference Hall The Kremlin Moscow, Russia 2:40 P.M.

(L) PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, journalists. This is the seventh meeting of the presidents of the U.S. and Russia. This visit by Bill Clinton to Russia is of particular importance. The participation of such a high guest in the 9th of May celebration is seen by us as a tribute to the people killed in our common struggle against fascism. Before each Russia-U.S. summit, there is no shortage of all kinds of speculations about Russian and U.S. contradictions. Sometimes they even refer to crises in our relations. The results of the Moscow talks have yet again denied these speculations. Of course, even after the summit, differences to a number of issues have not disappeared. The important thing is that we seek to address these problems while maintaining a balance of interest and without prejudice to each other's interests, but on the contrary, in assisting each other.

The agenda of this meeting was very busy and comprehensive. We addressed the key issues of international life, issues which are of top priority for both countries. I'm referring, above all to the evolution of the European security structures -- the START Treaty and the ABM Treaty, strengthening the non-proliferation regime, economic cooperation and terrorism. It is of fundamental importance that the discussion, which we had about the model for European security, proceed at taking into account the new role of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Today, this organization is beginning to play a central role in maintaining stability on the European continent. We exchanged views on NATO issues. Today we better understand the interests and concerns of each other, and yet we still don't have answers to a number of questions -- our positions even remain unchanged. I hope that our joint statement on matters related to strengthening European security will provide a starting point for further efforts because it provides for cooperation in the establishment of a single indivisible Europe looking into the future. A serious document has been agreed on the problem of the ABM.

We adopted a joint statement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. I believe that that agreement will mark a major contribution to the adoption at the New York conference of a decision on an indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT Treaty. The conference will probably end tomorrow. At the negotiations, the question was raised about future Russian supplies of equipment to Iran. That is, of course, not a simple question, and, of course, you are going to ask that question, and both Presidents will answer that question. We discussed in detail, the implementation of the economic charter we signed last year. As a result, we adopted a statement on the question of economic reform, trade and investment.

The U.S. President expressed his support for our reforms. We agreed to speed up the process of Russia's entry to the system of international economic institutions, above all, the COCOM. Of course, we discussed the Chechen issue. This is an internal matter for Russia, but I also believe it does have an international aspect. Russia has accepted the presence at Grozny of the OSCE

assistance group. Terrorism knows no borders. Unfortunately, U.S. citizens recently were confronted with that barbarous phenomenon.

I believe that everybody would agree that we should fight this evil jointly, and we have agreed upon that. During the talks, we had a fruitful exchange of views on the meeting of the political eight in Halifax, and not of the political, but also of the economic eight. We also discussed a number of other international issues. Now I am ready to answer your questions. I give the floor to the President of the United States of America, Mr. William Clinton.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: First of all, I'd like to thank President Yeltsin and the Russian people for making me and the rest of our American delegation and the others who came here for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II feel so welcome. I was honored to play a part in that, and I think it was a very important day for our country and for our relationship. Today we focused on the future. And if you ask me to summarize in a word or two what happened today, I would say that we advanced the security interests of the people of the United States and the people of Russia.

We increased the safety of the future of our peoples, and we proved once again that this regular, disciplined, working relationship that we have established, rooted in Russia's commitment to democracy and in a mature and balanced dialogue and a commitment to continue to work on the differences between us in the areas of common opportunity, we proved that this is a good relationship, and that it is worth the investment, and that we are approaching it in the proper way. I characterize this as a success from a security point of view for several reasons.

First of all, with regard to European security, while there was not an agreement, between us on the details on the question of the expansion of NATO, Russia did agree to enter into the Partnership for Peace. And I committed myself in return at the meeting at the end of this month to encourage the beginning of the NATO-Russia dialogue, which I think is very important. There must be a special relationship between NATO and Russia. We agreed to continue to discuss this at Halifax, and again at the end of the year when we see each other.

And I made it clear that I thought that anything done with NATO had to meet two criteria: Number one, it must advance the interests of all the partners for peace, the security interests of all of them, including Russia; and, number two, it must advance the long-term goal of the United States, which I have articulated from the beginning of my presidency, of an integrated Europe, which I believe is very important. And I think Russia shares both of those objectives. Secondly, with regard to the nuclear sales to Iran, as you know, the United States opposes the sale of the reactor and the centrifuge.

I want to say that I was deeply impressed that President Yeltsin told me that he had decided, in the interest of nonproliferation, not to supply the centrifuge and related equipment to Iran. I shared with him some of the intelligence from the United States on the question of whether Iran is trying to become a nuclear power. And we agreed in light of the questions of facts that need to be determined here and Russia's strong support for nonproliferation, to refer the question of the reactor itself to the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission for further work on resolution.

I was very pleased today that we were able to make progress on the outstanding issues relating to weapon sales which will permit Russia to be a founding member of the post-COCOM regime, something, again, which will make the world a safer place. Fourthly, we agreed that both of us would work as hard as we could to get START II ratified this year, and then to go beyond that to talk about what we could do further to support the denuclearization of the world and of our two arsenals.

Fifthly, we agreed that we should step up our efforts in combatting terrorism and organized crime, a problem that affects not only our two nations, but also many others in the world, as we have sadly seen. And we discussed some fairly specific things that we might do together to intensify our efforts. As President Yeltsin said, we re-affirmed today in specific actions our support for the Nonproliferation Treaty, and we look forward to its permanent extension. And we hope that the indefinite -- excuse me, the indefinite extension will be adopted soon.

And finally, we were able to reach agreement on the ABM theater missile defenses issue, which is a very important one, and many of the Americans here know, important for our attempts to go forward on START II and other things back home. We talked about our economic cooperation. We talked about the progress Russia is making. I expressed again the strong concern of the United States that the violence in Chechnya should be brought to an end. I urged the permanent extension of the cease-fire. I was encouraged that President Yeltsin, I believe, understands the gravity of this matter and also wants it concluded as quickly as possible. So we are, I think, in a better position in our two countries today and our people will be safer as a result of this meeting. It was an advance for security. There was significant progress made. And we still have work to do.

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary (Naples, Italy)

For Immediate

Release July 10, 1994 PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT YELTSIN Palazzo Reale Naples, Italy 3:40 P.M.

(L) THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. As you know, this was a very important day in which President Yeltsin joined us as a full partner in the G-8 for political discussions. And we followed that meeting with a bilateral meeting, continuing our good personal relationship which made some significant progress. I'd like to make a few comments on the G-8 and on our bilateral meeting, and then have President Yeltsin make any statement he'd like to make. And, of course, we'll take some questions.

First of all, today's statement read by Chairman Berlusconi on behalf of all eight of us makes it clear that we share fundamental foreign policy goals: support for democracy, free markets, building new security relationships. On these matters, we spoke as one. If you read each of the items in that statement, I think it is remarkable that these eight countries have together agreed on these things. In the wake of the death of Kim Il Sung, we also expressed our strong commitment to continuing talks with North Korea and our support for the holding of the summit which had previously been scheduled between leaders of North and South Korea. We also strongly agreed on the importance of pushing ahead with a resolution of the crisis in Bosnia. Finally, the United States and Russia joined all of the nations in expressing regret over the death of the Italian sailors at the hands of terrorists in Algeria, and reaffirmed our opposition to terrorism anywhere, anytime. With regard to my meeting with President Yeltsin, let me just mention one or two issues.

First of all, there has been a promising development in the Baltics. After my very good discussion with the President of Estonia, Mr. Meri, I passed on his ideas to President Yeltsin today in effort to break the impasse between the two nations over troop withdrawals. I believe the differences between the two countries have been narrowed and that an agreement can be reached in the near future so that troops would be able to withdraw by the end of August. But now that is a matter to be resolved between President Yeltsin and President Meri, which President Yeltsin has promised to give his attention and for which I am very grateful. When the Russian troops withdraw from the Baltics and Germany, it will end the bitter legacy of the second world war. I want to say publicly here that none of this could have been accomplished without the emergence of a democratic Russia and its democratic president. And I thank President Yeltsin for that. We talked about Ukraine, its importance to Russia, to the United States, to the future.

And we agreed on continuing to work on the issues that we all care about, including economic reform and continuing to implement the agreement on denuclearization which has so far been implemented quite faithfully. We talked about our security relationship, and I must say again how pleased I am that Russia has joined the Partnership for Peace. And finally, I'd like to congratulate President Yeltsin on the remarkable, steadfast and success of his economic reform efforts. Inflation is down. The Russian deficit is now a smaller percentage of annual income than that of some other European countries. Over the half the workers are now in the private sector.

There's a lot to be done, and the rest of us have our responsibilities, as well. And we talked a little bit about that and what the United States could do to increase trade and investment. Looking ahead, I have invited President Yeltsin to come to Washington to hold a summit with me and to have a state visit on September 27th and 28th, and he has accepted. I'm confident that would give us a chance to continue the progress we are making and the friendship we are developing. Mr. President.

PRESIDENT YELTSIN: Thank you, Mr. President Bill Clinton, for the kind words that you said toward Russia and its President. I, of course, am very satisfied by the summit, the political 8, which has taken place today. I think that this, of course, is just a beginning. But as I said, the Russian Bear is not going to try to break his way through an open door, and we are not going to force ourselves into the full G-8 until it is deserved. When our economic system, our economic situation, will become coordinated with the economic systems of the other seven countries, then it will be natural and then Russia will enter as a full-fledged member of the eight then. Nonetheless, I am grateful to the chairman -- Prime Minister of Italy, Mr. Berlusconi -- and to all the heads of the states of the seven for the attention which they showed towards Russia -- the welcome, including yesterday's statement by the chairman and today's statement on political issues.

Together, today, we held a discussion on political, international issues around the world, and we found common understanding which says a lot about the fact that we can find this mutual understanding and, in realistic terms, cooperate and help in the strengthening of peace on this planet. I believe that this meeting and -- yesterday's, I mean -- and today's is yet another large step towards the security of Europe, for a much more economically stable situation, and an order that, really, the world can live in peace and in friendship. And we should all help in this endeavor, and I think this meeting is yet another large step to full security of peace on Earth. In developing my thoughts, I wanted to add that this meeting was a meeting, bilateral meeting, that we had with the President of the United States, Bill Clinton.

But our meetings are always held in a very dynamic and interesting way, we get very specific. We don't have a lot of philosophizing there now. Say if it's 1:15 p.m., 1:20 p.m., we get in and start discussing about 30, 35 different issues, at least, on one side, on the other side. And we find -- of necessity, we sit down and we find some kind of compromise solution to find an answer. And I have to say, yet again, this time we were able to summarize after the last summit meeting, where Bill came to Russia, we were able to summarize all the things that happened. Many, many things took place, very positive things, and we expressed satisfaction to the fact of how our relationship is developing and growing -- our partnership, our friendship, our cooperation. At the same time, of course, as people who are sincere, both of us could not but touch upon some of the issues which, unfortunately, are yet unresolved, which still we could not have found answers to up until now.

This has to do with certain discrimination toward Russia in trade, for example. This time at the 8 Russia did not ask for money. It said -- I said -- that you -- let's all together take certain measures and steps and decisions in your individual countries, included among them the United States of America, so that Russia on an equal basis, equal basis, could trade with everybody. We're not asking for any preferential conditions, we're not asking for any special circumstances for us

alone. No. We're saying let's give us equal rights, get rid finally, once and for all, of this red jacket. Take that red jacket from the President of Russia -- which I don't wear now for three years; I've taken that red, besmirched jacket off of myself. You understand what I'm talking about, right? You understand. You earned the right of asking the first question. (Laughter.)

For

Immediate Release April 4, 1993 WASHINGTON, April 4 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Following is the text of a joint statement by President Clinton and President Yeltsin at the summit in Vancouver:

Having met in Vancouver, Canada on April 3-4, President Bill Clinton of the United States of America and President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation declared their firm commitment to a dynamic and effective U.S.-Russian partnership that strengthens international stability. The two presidents approved a comprehensive strategy of cooperation to promote democracy, security, and peace. President Yeltsin stressed his firm commitment to fostering democratization, the rule of law, and a market economy. As the United States moves to reinvigorate its own economy, President Clinton assured President Yeltsin of active American support for the Russian people as they pursue their own chosen course of political and economic reform.

The Presidents agreed on a new package of bilateral economic programs and measures to address Russia's immediate human needs and contribute to the building of necessary structures for successful transition to a market economy. They recognized the critical importance of creating favorable external conditions in which the Russian economy can realize its maximum potential. In this connection, the Presidents expressed their determination to promote access to each other's markets, cooperation in defense conversion, removal of impediments to trade and investment, and resumption of U.S. food exports to Russia on a stable long-term basis.

President Yeltsin informed President Clinton about the Russian program of economic reforms. In particular, President Yeltsin stressed such key questions of the Russian reform as the necessity of combatting inflation and achieving financial stabilization by improvement of the banking system. He also emphasized the importance of privatization, encouragement of entrepreneurship, structural policy, and social support. In this context, the Presidents discussed the role of the international community in supporting specific elements of the reform program. The Presidents agreed that Russia's harmonious integration into the community of democratic nations and the world economy is essential.

They therefore called for accelerated G-7 development of substantial and effective new economic initiatives to support political and economic reform in Russia. In this connection, the Presidents welcomed the extraordinary meeting of the foreign and finance ministers of the G-7 countries and the Russian Federation scheduled for April 14-15 in Tokyo. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin also expressed their satisfaction with the successful conclusion of negotiations in Paris on the rescheduling of the international debt of the former USSR.

The United States announced its support for Russia's intention to become a full member of GATT and to begin, in the near future, official talks on the conditions of Russia's accession to GATT. The Presidents agreed to give fresh impetus to development of the U.S.-Russian relationship in all its dimensions. To coordinate and direct this effort and to activate a comprehensive and intensive dialogue, they agreed on measures to improve the mechanism for mutual consultations. In particular, working groups will be set up involving high-level officials of both governments with broad authority in the areas of economic and scientific and technological cooperation.

The Presidents agreed to establish a United States-Russian Commission on technological cooperation in the fields of energy and space. They intend to designate Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and Vice President Gore to head this commission. The leaders of the United States and Russia attached great importance to the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. They reaffirmed their determination to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), make it universal, and give it an unlimited duration. The Presidents stressed their expectation that all countries of the former USSR which are not already NPT members will promptly confirm their adherence to the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states.

They urged the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea to comply fully with its IAEA safeguards obligations, which remain in force, and to retract its announcement of withdrawal from the NPT. The Presidents agreed that efforts of the United States and Russia will be directed toward the entry into force of the START I Treaty and the ratification of the START II Treaty as soon as possible. They affirmed that the United States and Russia intend to cooperate, on the basis of their mutual interest, in environmentally safe elimination of nuclear forces pursuant to relevant arms control agreements, in construction of a storage facility for nuclear materials and in the controlling, accounting, and physical protection of nuclear materials.

The United States reiterated its readiness to provide assistance to Russia for these purposes. The Presidents called for prompt conclusion, on mutually acceptable terms, of the negotiations on an agreement on the conversion and sale for peaceful purposes of nuclear materials removed from nuclear weapons. The Presidents underscored their determination to broaden interaction and consultations between Russia and the United States in the areas of defense and security. They instructed their Ministers of Defense to explore further possibilities in that direction. The Presidents noted the progress achieved at the recent United States-Russian talks on chemical weapons in Geneva. They welcomed the progress made in preparing the protocols necessary to submit the "Agreement on Destruction and Non-Production of Chemical Weapons" of June 1, 1990, for approval by the legislative bodies of the Russian Federation and the United States. They also welcomed progress achieved in developing agreement on the preparation and implementation of the second phase of the Wyoming Memorandum of Understanding of September 23, 1989, regarding a bilateral verification experiment and data exchange related to prohibition of chemical weapons.

The Presidents agreed that it is necessary to achieve the earliest possible resolution of questions about cooperation in non-proliferation of missiles and missile technology in all its aspects, in accordance with the principles of existing international agreements. They also decided to work together to remove obstacles impeding Russia's access to the global market in high technology and related services. The Presidents agreed that negotiations on a multilateral nuclear test ban should commence at an early date, and that their governments would consult with each other accordingly. Mindful of their countries' responsibilities as permanent members of the UN Security Council, the Presidents affirmed that U.S.-Russian cooperation is essential to the peaceful resolution of international conflicts and the promotion of democratic values, the protection of human rights, and the solution of global problems, such as environmental pollutions terrorism, and narcotics trafficking.

The United States and Russia stressed their determination to improve the effectiveness of peacemaking and peacekeeping capabilities of the United Nations, the CSCE, and other appropriate regional organizations. Recognizing that the problem of mistreatment of minorities and ethnic communities is increasingly a source of international instability, the Presidents stressed the critical importance of full protection for individual human rights, including those of ethnic Russian and all other minorities on the territory of the former Soviet Union. They affirmed their commitment to the peaceful resolution of conflicts in that region on the basis of respect for the independence, territorial integrity, and security of all member states of the UN and the CSCE.

The Presidents announced their intention to expand and improve their joint work in the area of environmental protection. They agreed to coordinate on joint ecological measures to be taken and research to be done, and on support for financing agreed programs. The Presidents agreed that the level of mutual openness achieved makes it possible to proceed with new forms of cooperation in science and technology, including programs in the field of outer space. The two countries will further develop bilateral cooperation in fisheries in the Bering Sea, the North Pacific, and the Sea of Okhotsk, including for the purpose of preservation and reproduction of living marine resources and of monitoring the ecosystem in the Northern Pacific. The Presidents further agreed to expand significantly their contacts, exchanges, and cooperation in the areas of culture, education, the humanities, and the mass media.

The joint efforts of both countries have succeeded in establishing a new character for Russian-American relations. The Presidents reaffirmed the principles and provisions of the Camp David Declaration of February 1, 1992, and the Charter of U.S.-Russian Partnership and Friendship of June 17, 1992, as a basis for relations between the two countries. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin expressed their deep appreciation to Prime Minister Mulroney and the people of Canada for hosting their meeting in Vancouver. With a view to accelerating the development of U.S.-Russian partnership, the Presidents agreed to meet regularly at the summit level. President Yeltsin invited President Clinton to visit Russia. President Clinton accepted the invitation with appreciation. -0- /U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/