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Non-Proliferation Treaty / Budapest

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Chris Harte
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12/1/94 2 p.m.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE NPT/SECURITY ASSURANCES/START I CEREMONY
DECEMBER 5, 1994
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

President Yeltsin, President Kuchma, President Lukashenko, President Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Major, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome.

We have come here today to usher in a new and safer era for our peoples and for all the world.

In the next few moments, there will be many signatures. Together, they comprise a single great stride. In fact, since the invention of nuclear weapons a half century ago, there may never have been a greater stride to reduce the danger they pose to life on our planet than the one we are now taking together.

This act would not have been possible without the statesmanship and wisdom of the leaders who have joined me here today. In what history will surely judge as one of the boldest moves back from the precipice of Armageddon, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine pledged two and a half years ago in Lisbon to give up the nuclear armaments they inherited from the former Soviet Union and to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapons states.

Those commitments are now being fulfilled. As Belarus did in 1993 and Kazakhstan did earlier this year, Ukraine today presents its instruments of ratification to the NPT, two weeks after its parliament voted to accede to the Treaty. Presidents Kuchma, Nazarbayev and Lukashenko: You

could do no greater service for your nations, your neighbors and peace-loving people everywhere.

President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Major and I will join Presidents Kuchma, Lukashenko and Nazarbayev in signing memoranda on security assurances for their nations. These documents underscore our shared commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of these three nations. They also demonstrate our conviction that creating security for the Europe of tomorrow is about uniting, not dividing. It is about building structures together, not against or between one another.

Finally, Presidents Yeltsin, Kuchma, Nazarbayev, Lukashenko and I will exchange instruments of ratification for the START I Treaty, putting the treaty formally into effect. START I paves the way for further dramatic reductions in nuclear weapons and promises to lead to the future we all want: One in which no parent need ever worry about the distant and terrible weapons that might threaten his or her child.

CLOSING STATEMENT

What has been achieved here is a triumph of perseverance, courage and common sense. The path to this event started 14 years ago, when the United States and the Soviet Union began negotiating the START I Treaty. It took nearly a decade to hammer out an accord, and shortly thereafter, the dissolution of the Soviet Union raised doubts about whether there would ever be broad

reductions in nuclear armaments. Skeptics said that the new nations that inherited these weapons from the former Soviet Union would never give them up. It was argued that the old balance of terror of the Cold War provided more security and orderliness than the new complexities of the period that has followed.

The skeptics were wrong. They knew little of the farsightedness of the leaders who are here today. In Lisbon in 1992, the United States, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus agreed to transform the bilateral START I Treaty into a five-nation agreement that included as equal parties all the states that inherited the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union.

Now START I is in force, and the promise of the end of the Cold War is being fulfilled. This will lock in reductions that are already under way and put in place a unprecedented verification system. To continue the progress, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to try to put the START II Treaty into force at our next summit in the spring of 1995. That would ensure a reduction to roughly one quarter of the Cold War strength of the two arsenals. And after START II, we will begin work on additional cuts in our respective nuclear forces.

On this historic afternoon, we have shown that the community of free nations that emerged after the fall of communism can create a safer, better world than the divided world that preceded it. The agreements signed here build bridges of cooperation and friendship between nations, and commit us to work together to deepen security for all of our nations. All Americans join me in

saluting the leadership of Presidents Yeltsin, Nazarbayev, Lukashenko and Kuchma and Prime Minister Major, without which this day would have been inconceivable.

Together, we have defeated pessimism. We have beaten back the threat of nuclear war. And we have lighted the way to a still more peaceful day, when the shadow of destruction is finally vanquished.

Thank you.

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12/4/94 11 p.m.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE NPT/SECURITY ASSURANCES/START I CEREMONY
DECEMBER 5, 1994
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

President Yeltsin, President Kuchma, President Lukashenko [Lou-ka-SHENKAH], President Nazarbayev [Na-zar-BUY-ev], Prime Minister Major, distinguished guests.

Today we herald the arrival of a new and safer era for our peoples and for all the world.

We have witnessed many signatures. Taken together, they add up to one great stride. In the half century of the nuclear age, nations may never have moved so dramatically to reduce the danger nuclear weapons pose to life on our planet.

The path to this moment has been long and extraordinarily hard. More than a decade has passed since the first negotiations on the START I Treaty. Yet today, perseverance, courage and common sense have triumphed.

Skeptics claimed that the nuclear threat would only grow after the Soviet Union dissolved.

Thanks to the wisdom and statesmanship of the leaders who join me here, we have proven the skeptics wrong.

Ukraine's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty completes one of the boldest moves ever away from the nuclear precipice. That nation has joined Belarus and Kazakhstan in ridding itself of the terrible weapons each inherited when the Soviet Union dissolved. These countries have shown the vision to grasp the moment for peace. Presidents Lukashenko [Lou-Ka-SHENKAH], Nazarbayev [Na-zar-Buy-ev] and Kuchma: You could do no greater service for your nations, your neighbors and all the peoples of the world. And there is no greater service all of us could do our nations, our neighbors and the peoples of the world than to agree to the indefinite extension of NPT in 1995.

Creating security in the post-Cold War era requires that we unite, not divide. The pledges on security assurances that President Yeltsin, Prime Minister Major and I have given these three nations move us further toward that goal. They underscore our commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of these three states.

And today, we have reached a milestone in fulfilling the promise of this new era. We have put the START I Treaty into force. START I is the first treaty that requires nuclear powers to actually reduce their strategic arsenals. It creates the most far-reaching verification system ever agreed upon. In all, START I will eliminate over 9,000 warheads from our arsenals.

lays the groundwork for even deeper
 START I makes the momentum toward more arms reductions ~~unstoppable~~. President Yeltsin and I have vowed to work to put the START II Treaty into force at our next summit in 1995. ~~And~~
with cuts as deep as
 START II ~~promises~~ even deeper cuts - another 5,000 warheads. Together, both START treaties

will leave the United States and the former Soviet Union with only a third of the warheads they possessed at the height of the Cold War. They will help lead to the future we have all dreamed of for so long: A future in which the nuclear threat that has hung over our heads for nearly 50 years is dramatically reduced. I can think of no greater gift to ourselves and our children.

On this historic afternoon, we have shown that today's community of free nations can and will create a safer globe than did the divided world of yesterday.

Together, we have defeated pessimism. We have helped beat back the threat of nuclear war. And we have lighted the way to a more peaceful day -- one when the shadow of destruction is finally vanquished from the earth.

Thank you.

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