

Case Number: 2015-0183-S

MIR MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Original OA/ID Number: 2342				
Document ID: 9605502				
Row: 46	Section: 3	Shelf: 5	Position: 2	Stack: V

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9605502
RECEIVED: 08 AUG 96 15

TO: MCCONNELL, MITCH
ET AL

CHRON FILE

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 04 SEP 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: RUSSIA
LEGAL ISSUES

IMPORT CONTROLS
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: REPLY RE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT / VRA W/ RUSSIA

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 12 AUG 96 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: PASCUAL

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

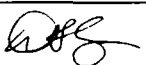
FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

DANVERS
KRECZKO
NSC CHRON
PASCUAL
PIFER
WALSH

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY  DATE 9-11-96 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTMH

CLOSED BY: NSDRS

DOC 5 OF 5

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9605502

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 LEE	Z 96080815 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
001	Z 96080909 ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 PASCUAL	Z 96080909 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
002 BERGER	Z 96082014 FOR SIGNATURE
003 BERGER	Z 96082017 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIG
004 PRESIDENT	Z 96090514 FOR SIGNATURE
005	X 96091110 PRESIDENT SGD LTRS
005 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 96091110 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

<u>DOC</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR ACTION</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR INFO</u>
004	960905		VICE PRESIDENT
004	960905		WH CHIEF OF STAFF
005	960904	MCCONNELL, MITCH	STATE
005	960904	CRAIG, LARRY E	CIA
005	960904	GRAMS, ROD	DEFENSE
005	960904	HELMS, JESSE A	
005	960904	KEMPTHORNE, DIRK	
005	960904	MURKOWSKI, FRANK H	
005	960904	SHELBY, RICHARD C	
005	960904	WH STRIPPING DESK	

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9605502
RECEIVED: 08 AUG 96 15

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: MCCONNELL, MITCH
KEMPTHORNE, DIRK
HELMS, JESSE A

DOC DATE: 02 AUG 96
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: IMPORT CONTROLS
LEGAL ISSUES

RUSSIA
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: VRA AGREEMENT W/ RUSSIA & ASKING PRES TO STOP ITS USE RE GUN CONTROL
OBJECTIVES & IMPORT LAWS

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE

DUE DATE: 12 AUG 96 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: LEE

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
LEE

FOR CONCURRENCE
DANVERS
HESLIN
KRECKO
PIFER

FOR INFO
ANDREASEN
BELL
HARMON
JONES, K
KYLE
LORIN
REZNIK
SCHWARTZ
SENS
SESTAK
VERSHBOW

Carlos Pascual

COMMENTS:

Action Yulov to Russia

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTMH

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 5502

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG TMH A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Harmon	<u>6</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
Dohse	_____	_____	_____
Sens	_____	_____	_____
Soderberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Lake	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>7</u>	<u>me 9/11</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>8</u>	<u>GRB 9/11</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

Date Sep. 4, 1996 ?

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____

LOG # 5502

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____

SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____

DOCLOG LA A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<u>Harmon</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	
Dohse			
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Berger	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	
Lake	<u>3</u>	<u>Nat'l Sec Advisor</u> <u>has seen</u>	
Situation Room		<u>Nat'l Sec Advisor</u> <u>has seen</u>	
West Wing Desk	<u>4</u>	<u>[Signature]</u> <u>8/23</u>	<u>D Walker</u>
Records Mgt. <u>L</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Tm H 9.5</u>	<u>Stern</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

Exec Sec Office has diskette [Signature]

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

96 SEP 3 P8:58
September 3, 1996

To: Todd Stern

From: Andrew D. Sens 

Please review the attached package #5502
"Congressional letter on Voluntary
Restraint Agreement on Russian Gun
Imports" and give your comments
/concurrence as soon as possible.

Thank you.

EK
TJ

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

Before we lifted the ITAR restrictions, Russia agreed to negotiate voluntary restraints on firearm exports that could pose a threat from abroad to domestic safety. The VRA negotiated with Russia allows us to import firearms that are collectors' items or have a sporting or hunting purpose. Import restrictions apply to guns especially attractive to criminals: inexpensive, easily concealable handguns and military-style semi-automatic weapons that are easily converted into machine guns. We are now implementing similar arrangements with other countries to address imports of these types of weapons, which pose the biggest threat to our law enforcement officials.

Fighting crime will remain one of my Administration's highest priorities. The actions we have taken ensure that our foreign policy effectively integrates sound international commercial practice with domestic safety concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Senator Craig:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1203

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Senator Grams:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Rod Grams
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-5002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

The Honorable Jesse Helms
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3301

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Senator Kempthorne:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1204

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Fighting crime will remain one of my Administration's highest priorities. The actions we have taken ensure that our foreign policy effectively integrates sound international commercial practice with domestic safety concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-0202

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Richard:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Fighting crime will remain one of my Administration's highest priorities. The actions we have taken ensure that our foreign policy effectively integrates sound international commercial practice with domestic safety concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, stylized script.

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3102

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI

ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0202

(202) 224-6665

222 WEST 7TH AVENUE, BOX 1

ANCHORAGE, AK 99513-7570

(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, BOX 7

FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278

(907) 456-0233

P.O. Box 21647

JUNEAU, AK 99802-1647

(907) 586-7400

130 TRADING BAY ROAD, SUITE 350

KENAI, AK 99611-7716

(907) 283-5808

109 MAIN STREET

KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6489

(907) 225-6880

96 AUG 5 P4: 57

August 2, 1996

5502

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We wish to call your attention to the "Voluntary Restraint Agreement" (VRA) recently negotiated with Russia. This agreement was made as a condition for Russia's removal from the so-called "proscribed nations" list of countries involved in terrorist or other activity contrary to the foreign policy of the United States. We ask that you personally look into this matter.

In our opinion, the VRA was wrongfully used to pursue firearms imports controls not authorized by Congress. Pursuant to the Gun Control Act of 1968, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) has the authority to determine what firearms and ammunition may be imported into the United States. BATF long ago established criteria for importing sporting and "curio or relic" collectible firearms into the United States.

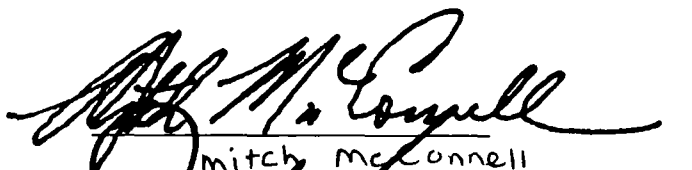
The Russia VRA, however, evades BATF's criteria for importation. The VRA bans the importation of Russian origin firearms which do meet BATF's sporting and "curio or relic" criteria. It also bans the importation of certain ammunition that is otherwise importable. Even more alarming, the new VRA implementation instructions, published recently in the *Federal Register*, bans the importation of these guns not only from Russia, but from any other country as well.

This action by the Administration is unprecedented for a country which has been taken off the "proscribed nations" list. Your staff has also confirmed that similar VRA's may be sought with other countries, whether or not they are on the proscribed nations list. Such an action would have a devastating impact on the importation of fine quality sporting arms and ammunition from around the world.

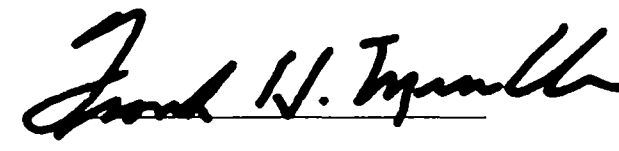
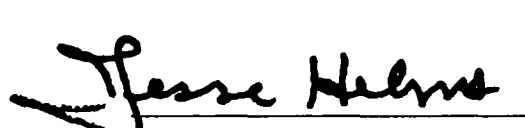
We ask that you stop the use of VRA's for domestic gun control objectives. If you seek a change in the Nation's import laws, propose it to Congress. We want to make it clear that we will not simply stand by and acquiesce to a misuse of the Nation's trade laws that put Americans out of work, strip law abiding gun owners and importers of their rights, and diminish consumer choices in sporting arms and ammunition.

Thank you for your personal review of this matter.

Sincerely,


Mitch McConnell

Dirk Kempthorne


Frank H. Murkowski

Jesse Helms

Richard Shelby

L. E. Craig
Larry E. Craig

Pat Summitt

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5502

August 6, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDREW SENS

FROM: SUSAN BROPHY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached are copies of correspondence sent to the White House from members of Congress. Since these letters relate to national security issues, I would appreciate your assistance in drafting responses.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Chris Walker at x67500.

The following is a brief description of each letter:

- 1) Senator Bob Graham (D-FL), concerning Mexico and the U.S. tomato and pepper industry;
- 2) Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), concerning harmonization of rules of origin regarding NAFTA and GATT;
- 3) Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), concerning sharing nuclear weapons data with France and China;
- 4) Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), concerning the ban on the transfer of advanced conventional weapons to Latin America;
- 5) Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senator Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID), and five others, concerning the "Voluntary Restraint Agreement" (VRA) negotiated with Russia; and
- 6) Representative David Bonior (D-MI), on behalf of Jaroslav Duzyi, concerning an endorsement for a book on Ukrainians in post-WWII refugee camps.

Enclosures.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 5, 1996

96 SEP 5 P3:53

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

ANTHONY LAKE
JOHN HILLEY

SUBJECT:

Congressional Letter on Voluntary Restraint
Agreement on Russian Gun ImportsPurpose

To respond to Senators McConnell, Kempthorne and five others raising their concern over a Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) on Russian gun exports to the United States.

Background

In June 1995 you approved taking Russia off the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) list after the negotiation of a VRA with Russia on firearm exports to the United States. Russia's removal from the ITAR list was made possible by its decision in 1995 to join a new multilateral export control regime. By taking Russia off the ITAR list, we opened the door to defense trade, but we also eliminated import restrictions on Russian guns. A VRA was negotiated in February 1996. The Vice President played a direct role in facilitating the VRA through the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. We have implemented similar arrangements with most of the other NIS.

Your response to the Senators explains that the decision to negotiate a VRA with Russia was driven by our dual objectives of eliminating Cold War trade restrictions (i.e., the ITAR list) while addressing domestic safety concerns. You note that imports of sporting and hunting firearms and collectors items are allowed under the VRA. We have vetted this agreement with gun control organizations and have their endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab B.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Senators
Tab B Incoming

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

5502

August 13, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL BERGER

THROUGH: STEVE PIFERS

FROM: CARLOS PASCUAL

SUBJECT: Congressional Letter on Voluntary Restraint
Agreement on Russian Gun Imports

The memorandum at Tab I recommends a Presidential response to an August 2 letter from Senators McConnell, Kempthorne and five others concerning our voluntary restraint agreement with Russia on gun imports.

Concurrences by:  Alan Kreczko, Bill Danvers, Jim Eisenhower,
Helen Walsh, Leon Fuerth, Rahm Emmanuel

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letters to Senators
Tab B Incoming

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1996

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

Before we lifted the ITAR restrictions, Russia agreed to negotiate voluntary restraints on firearm exports that could pose a threat from abroad to domestic safety. The VRA negotiated with Russia allows us to import firearms that are collectors' items or have a sporting or hunting purpose. Import restrictions apply to guns especially attractive to criminals: inexpensive, easily concealable handguns and military-style semi-automatic weapons that are easily converted into machine guns. We are now implementing similar arrangements with other countries to address imports of these types of weapons, which pose the biggest threat to our law enforcement officials.

Fighting crime will remain one of my Administration's highest priorities. The actions we have taken ensure that our foreign policy effectively integrates sound international commercial practice with domestic safety concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Please put on one
page if possible.

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ~~SAMUEL BERGER~~ [?] ANTHONY LAKE
JOHN HILLEY

SUBJECT: Congressional Letter on Voluntary Restraint
Agreement on Russian Gun Imports

Purpose

To respond to Senators McConnell, Kempthorne and five others raising their concern over a Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) on Russian gun exports to the ~~U.S.~~ United States.

Background

In June 1995 you approved ~~a policy of~~ taking Russia off the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) list after negotiating a VRA with Russia on firearm exports to the ~~U.S.~~ ^{the United States} Russia's removal from the ITAR list was made possible by its decision in 1995 to join a new multilateral export control regime. By taking Russia off the ITAR list, we opened the door to defense trade, but we also eliminated import restrictions on Russian guns. Because of our concern over the potential for an influx of a large volume of cheap guns, we agreed to negotiate a VRA with Russia covering gun exports that pose a threat to domestic safety. Such a VRA was negotiated in February 1996. The Vice President played a direct role in facilitating the VRA through the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. We have ~~also~~ implemented similar arrangements with most of the other NIS.

Your response to the Senators explains that the decision to negotiate a VRA with Russia was driven by our dual objectives of eliminating Cold War trade restrictions (i.e., the ITAR list) while addressing domestic safety concerns. You note that imports of sporting and hunting firearms and collectors items are allowed under the VRA. We have vetted this agreement with gun control organizations and have their endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab B.

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter concerning the voluntary restraint agreement (VRA) between the United States and Russia on gun exports to the United States.

*- should this
be Capitalized
all is on the
letter to me
POCUS?*

This agreement was negotiated as part of a process of eliminating anachronistic Cold War restrictions on Russian trade with the United States. Last year, Russia joined 26 other countries to establish the Wassenaar Arrangement, a new multilateral export control regime for arms and sensitive dual-use technologies. Russia's decision allowed the United States to remove Russia from the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) list, which in effect precluded imports of Russian firearms.

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Fighting crime will remain one of my Administration's highest priorities. The actions we have taken ensure that our foreign policy effectively integrates sound international commercial practice with domestic safety concerns.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

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FROM: ANTHONY LAKE
JOHN HILLEY

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Your response to the Senators explains that the decision to negotiate a VRA with Russia was driven by our dual objectives of eliminating Cold War trade restrictions (i.e., the ITAR list) while addressing domestic safety concerns. You note that imports of sporting and hunting firearms and collectors items are allowed under the VRA. We have vetted this agreement with gun control organizations and have their endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab B.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Senators
Tab B Incoming

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI

ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0202

(202) 224-6885

180466

222 WEST 7TH AVENUE, BOX 1
ANCHORAGE, AK 99513-7570
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P.O. BOX 21847
JUNEAU, AK 99802-1847
(907) 886-7400

130 TRADING BAY ROAD, SUITE 350
KENAI, AK 99611-7716
(907) 283-5808

100 MAIN STREET
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6489
(907) 225-6880

96 AUG 5 P4: 57

August 2, 1996

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We wish to call your attention to the "Voluntary Restraint Agreement" (VRA) recently negotiated with Russia. This agreement was made as a condition for Russia's removal from the so-called "proscribed nations" list of countries involved in terrorist or other activity contrary to the foreign policy of the United States. We ask that you personally look into this matter.

In our opinion, the VRA was wrongfully used to pursue firearms imports controls not authorized by Congress. Pursuant to the Gun Control Act of 1968, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) has the authority to determine what firearms and ammunition may be imported into the United States. BATF long ago established criteria for importing sporting and "curio or relic" collectible firearms into the United States.

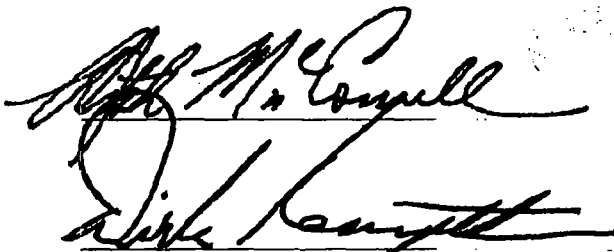
The Russia VRA, however, evades BATF's criteria for importation. The VRA bans the importation of Russian origin firearms which do meet BATF's sporting and "curio or relic" criteria. It also bans the importation of certain ammunition that is otherwise importable. Even more alarming, the new VRA implementation instructions, published recently in the *Federal Register*, bans the importation of these guns not only from Russia, but from any other country as well.

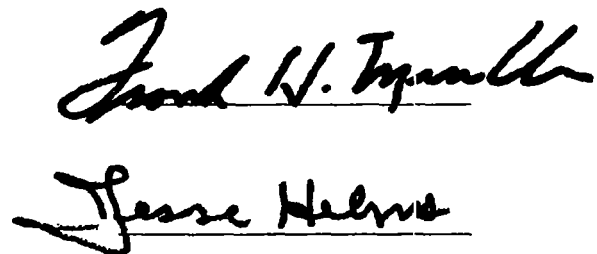
This action by the Administration is unprecedented for a country which has been taken off the "proscribed nations" list. Your staff has also confirmed that similar VRA's may be sought with other countries, whether or not they are on the proscribed nations list. Such an action would have a devastating impact on the importation of fine quality sporting arms and ammunition from around the world.

We ask that you stop the use of VRA's for domestic gun control objectives. If you seek a change in the Nation's import laws, propose it to Congress. We want to make it clear that we will not simply stand by and acquiesce to a misuse of the Nation's trade laws that put Americans out of work, strip law abiding gun owners and importers of their rights, and diminish consumer choices in sporting arms and ammunition.

Thank you for your personal review of this matter.

Sincerely,





SSD2

ADD TO RC

Richard Shelby

Ly 3hain

Red Swann

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 08, 1996

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE FRANK MURKOWSKI

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE "VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT
AGREEMENT" (VRA) NEGOTIATED WITH RUSSIA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
JOHN HILLEY		ORG	96/08/08		C 96/08/08
ANDREW SENS	REFERRAL NOTE: _____	RSA	96/08/08		____/____/____
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		____/____/____		____/____/____
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		____/____/____		____/____/____
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		____/____/____		____/____/____
	REFERRAL NOTE: _____		____/____/____		____/____/____

COMMENTS: ADDITIONAL SIGNEES

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 6 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1220 _____
 _____ MAIL USER CODES: (A) R AK _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*****
*ACTION CODES:  *DISPOSITION      *OUTGOING          *
*               *                 *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED        *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM      *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE     *C-COMPLETED        *      CODE = A      *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                 *      OUTGOING     *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                 *                   *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                 *                   *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                 *                   *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
 (ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
 LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
 MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9605502

REFERRAL

DATE: 11 SEP 96

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: MCCONNELL, MITCH

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 04 SEP 96

SUBJ: REPLY RE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT / VRA W/ RUSSIA

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 12 SEP 96

COMMENT:

FOR


JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 9605502
DATE 04 SEP 96

SUBJECT: REPLY RE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT / VRA W/ RUSSIA
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

DATE

TIME

SIGNATURE

WH STRIPPING DESK

PRINT LAST NAME:

COPY: 1

DATE, TIME, SIGN THE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO: NSC RECORDS MGNT, ROOM 379 OEOB

PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES