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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9801857
RECEIVED: 12 MAR 98 10

TO: CHERNOMYRDIN, VIKTOR

FROM: SOLOMON, GERALD B H

DOC DATE: 04 MAR 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: RUSSIA
CONGRESSIONAL

AVIATION

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: CY TO BERGER OF LTR TO CHERNOMYRDIN RE RUSSIAN AVIATION POLICY

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

DUE DATE: 18 MAR 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: COURTNEY

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
PASCUAL
RUDMAN

COMMENTS: _____

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9801857

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 COURTNEY
001
001 PASCUAL
001

Z 98031211 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 98031816 ACTION TRANSFERRED
Z 98031816 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
X 98031816 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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FOR ACTION
COURTNEY

FOR CONCURRENCE
BAKER
KYLE

FOR INFO
FORT
LEE
PASCUAL
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The civil aviation issues raised in Solomon's letter were addressed in a joint statement issued by the VP & Chernomyrdin during GCC-10. The VP will respond to Solomon highlighting his direct involvement along the lines of the enclosed draft letter. There is no need for Berger to respond.

COMMENTS:

Pascual

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DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I wanted to thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin concerning our relationship with Russia on civil aviation issues. This is a very important matter with serious commercial implications for both the United States and Russia.

The Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission meetings held in Washington March 10-11 provided an excellent opportunity to advance our civil aviation concerns. The Prime Minister and I issued a joint statement at the end of the Commission meetings calling upon our respective negotiators on civil aviation to bring their talks to an early and successful conclusion. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for late April, and we will ensure that the Russian negotiating team is fully aware of the guidance provided by the Prime Minister.

I appreciate your direct intervention with the Prime Minister. It shows that the Congress and the Administration are united on this matter.

Sincerely,

Honorable Gerald B.H. Solomon
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3222

DRAFT

GERALD B. SOLOMON

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
22ND DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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MEMBER
HOUSE TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN
PRISONERS OF WAR AND
MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

RULES COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

MEMBER
HOUSE TASK FORCE ON
CHILD CARE, DRUGS,
EDUCATION AND THE ELDERLY

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3222

March 4, 1998

SW

1857

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin
Russian Embassy
2650 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Prime Minister Chernomyrdin:

I am very concerned over an important controversy involving aviation which requires your personal intervention.

The United States has made clear its objections to Russia's aviation policy of assessing "royalty" payments for the right to utilize Russian airspace and these objections have been echoed repeatedly by other nations. The "royalty" issue has been raised at the European Union - Russian Cooperation Council and was officially condemned by the Council of the European Union in December.

Negotiations between the Federal Aviation Authority of Russia (FAAR) and the U.S. Department of Transportation have proven unsuccessful, with the FAAR formally announcing in November that Russia was terminating the bilateral Technical Agreement governing U.S. - Russian overflight issues. Since that time, efforts to restart negotiations have been delayed continually by Russian officials, dimming the prospects for a final solution.

Given the many interests shared by the United States and Russia, I am concerned that the current aviation dispute, if not resolved in the near future, may begin to have an adverse effect on our countries' broader relationship. Therefore, I request your personal attention in seeking a solution to this aviation dispute.

Sincerely,

GERALD B. H. SOLOMON
Member of Congress



cc: Vice President Albert Gore
National Security Advisor Sandy Berger
Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

MAR 12 10:20

GERALD B. SOLOMON

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3222

March 4, 1998

First Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov
Russian Embassy
2650 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Nemtsov:

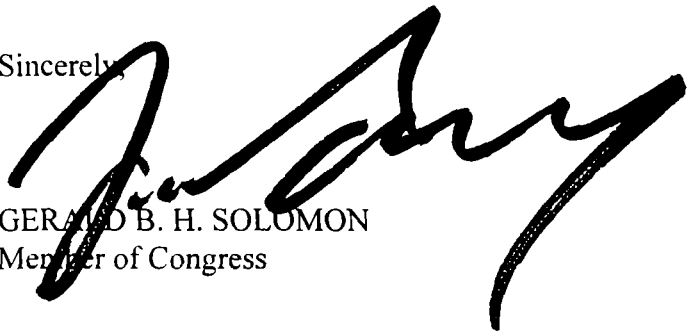
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