

NODIS 9428885

R15A

DECAPTIONED

TO: Secretary of State Christopher

24 December 1994

FROM: White House Situation Room

RELEASE IN FULL

Mr. Secretary,

The following letter was sent from President Clinton to President Yeltsin on 24 December and provided for your information.

Thank You.

Q. Ruono

DIST:
12/27 PER S/S{GUEST}-RJD
S
DONILON
D
P
SNIS
SP
S/S

NODIS 9428885

DIST:
12/27 PER S/S{GUEST}
S
DONILON
D
P
SNIS
SP
S/S

DECAPTIONED

R158

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RELEASE IN FULL

DECLASSIFIED

DEAR BORIS:

VICE PRESIDENT GORE HAS JUST REPORTED TO ME ON THE RESULTS OF HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK, HIGHLIGHTED BY WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS AN EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION WITH YOU. I WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK YOU PERSONALLY FOR AGREEING TO RECEIVE HIM, EVEN AS YOU RECUPERATED FROM SURGERY IN THE HOSPITAL. I WAS HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU ARE RECOVERING AND THAT YOU EXPECT TO RETURN TO A NORMAL SCHEDULE SHORTLY.

AS I WROTE TO YOU IN MY EARLIER LETTER, THERE IS TOO MUCH AT STAKE IN THE U.S.-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP TO ALLOW DISPUTES OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS TO PERSIST AND THREATEN ALL THAT YOU AND I HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO BUILD FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS NOW. THIS IS WHY I FELT IT SO IMPORTANT FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT TO CONVEY TO YOU PERSONALLY MY STRONG COMMITMENT BOTH TO THE U.S.-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP AND TO THE GOAL OF A STABLE, INTEGRATED AND UNDIVIDED EUROPE. I AM CERTAIN THAT HE LEFT YOU IN NO DOUBT ON THAT SCORE. I HOPE THAT YOU ALSO NOW HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF MY POSITION ON EUROPEAN SECURITY ISSUES AS THEY RELATE TO THE FUTURE OF NATO. SPECIFICALLY, I WANT TO REAFFIRM OUR SEPTEMBER UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF NATO WILL PROCEED GRADUALLY AND OPENLY. I AM DETERMINED THAT OUR PARTNERSHIP CONTINUE TO PROGRESS IN PARALLEL WITH THIS PROCESS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SHOULD DISCUSS HOW TO DEEPEN RUSSIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. THE DISCUSSIONS THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD WITH YOU HAVE CERTAINLY GIVEN US A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS THAT RUSSIA HAS REGARDING THESE QUESTIONS.

HAVING THUS CLEARED THE AIR AND PUT TO REST THE PERCEPTION OF A MAJOR "RIFT" BETWEEN US, WE CAN NOW MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO AMBIGUITY IN THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR POSITIONS. THE JANUARY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN WARREN CHRISTOPHER AND ANDREI KOZYREV WILL BE THE FIRST IN WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A NUMBER OF SUCH SESSIONS DESIGNED TO ENSURE A FULL TRANSPARENCY REGARDING BOTH ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS ON BOTH OUR PARTS. THE AGREEMENT TO KEEP THE VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS AND OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE COCOM SUCCESSOR REGIME WILL BE IMPORTANT TO OUR SUCCESS.

Declassification Authority: Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS
8/6/2020

I KNOW YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY ISSUE IS ALMOST WITHOUT QUESTION THE MOST IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE ISSUE WE WILL CONFRONT TOGETHER. I BELIEVE WE HAVE NOW LAID A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR DEALING WITH THE MANY QUESTIONS AND COMPLEXITIES THAT LIE AHEAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO KEEPING THIS IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR PERSONAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

BEFORE CLOSING, I WANTED TO TOUCH BRIEFLY ON A QUESTION I KNOW THE VICE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER: RUSSIA'S ECONOMIC REFORM PLANS AND THE 1995 BUDGET. I HAVE ADMIRERD THE FIRM STAND YOU HAVE TAKEN IN FAVOR OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AT CRITICAL MOMENTS DURING THE PAST YEAR. THE BUDGET YOU HAVE PROPOSED FOR 1995 CONTINUES THAT VERY AMBITIOUS APPROACH, WHICH WE BELIEVE IS A PREREQUISITE FOR RENEWED GROWTH, LOW INFLATION AND THUS CONTINUED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR REFORM. AS YOUR GOVERNMENT FACES THE PROSPECT OF EVEN FURTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS AHEAD, I HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT A STRONG REFORM COURSE. UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, 1995 CAN BE THE YEAR OF STABILIZATION OF RUSSIA'S ECONOMY. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD TO ENSURE THAT A STRONG RUSSIAN ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE-SCALE WESTERN SUPPORT.

BORIS, THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES ON MANY FRONTS FOR BOTH OF US. BUT WE CAN LOOK BACK WITH PRIDE AND A SENSE OF GENUINE ACCOMPLISHMENT OVER WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TOGETHER, BOTH FOR OUR OWN PEOPLES AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. BECAUSE OF OUR JOINT DEDICATION TO BUILD A SAFER WORLD, MANKIND APPROACHES THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH GREATER ASSURANCE FROM A STEADILY DIMINISHING NUCLEAR THREAT AND A CONTINUED COMMITMENT BY RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES TO THE COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS BROUGHT IT ABOUT. LET US RESOLVE TO DEEPEN AND EXPAND THAT PARTNERSHIP IN 1995, AND BEYOND.

HILLARY JOINS ME IN SENDING YOU AND NAINA THE WARMEST GREETINGS OF THE SEASON, AND OUR SINCERE WISHES FOR HEALTH AND FULFILLMENT IN THE NEW YEAR.

SINCERELY,

BILL

END TEXT

DECL: OADR