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PAGE 01 USUN N 00215 172113Z
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E.O.12356: DECL: ADR
TAGS: PREL, US, RU
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM YELTSIN
1. S - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. MY RUSSIAN COLLEAGUE VORONTSOV RETURNED TO NEW YORK LAST NIGHT AND SOUGHT ME OUT THIS MORNING TO DELIVER AN ORAL MESSAGE FROM YELTSIN WHOM HE HAD SEEN THE DAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

3. YELTSIN HAS NOTED PRESS REPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE SOME MAKING "DRAMATIC" ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE US MILITARY BUDGET AND ARMS IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION SPEECH. YELTSIN, REMEMBERING THE LAST TIME THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED ARM REDUCTIONS, DOES NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THE STATE OF THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 USUN N 00215 172113Z
UNION WILL COME A DAY OR TWO BEFORE THE SUMMIT AND HE WILL HAVE TO BE TRAVELLING. HE THEREFORE ASKS FOR EARLY CONSULTATIONS FROM THE US SIDE SO HE CAN PREPARE AN ADEQUATE RESPONSE ON HIS SIDE AND NOT HAVE TO TELL THE WORLD THAT HE IS "STUDYING THE QUESTIONS." I TOLD VORONTSOV I WOULD PASS THIS ON IMMEDIATELY.

4. YELTSIN ALSO SAYS HE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING THE PRESIDENT AND IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AT CAMP DAVID AND HOPES TO COME WELL PREPARED.

5. VORONTSOV ADDED THAT ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, YELTSIN FEELS HE COULD USE SOME MORE HELP FROM US WITH RESPECT TO NAZARBAEV IN KAZAKHSTAN. NAZARBAEV IS A REGULAR SUPPORTER OF YELTSIN ACCORDING TO

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Geoffrey Chapman, Senior Reviewer

VORONTSOV. VORONTSOV'S VIEW IS THAT NAZARBAEV HAS OVER EXTENDED HIMSELF IN SAYING HE WANTS TO JOIN NPT AS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE. WITH SOME PRESSURE, HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BACK DOWN, BUT HIS OVERREACHING ON THIS QUESTION IS DESIGNED TO TRY TO PRODUCE SOME MORE LEVERAGE FOR HIM IN SOME OF THE CIS INTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS, ACCORDING TO VORONTSOV. I NOTED THAT REG BARTHOLOMEW PLANS TO TAKE THIS UP IN ALMA ATA ON HIS VISIT AND THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS POINTS. YELTSIN BELIEVES EVENTUALLY NAZARBAEV WILL COME AROUND. HE NEEDS A DOSE OF COLD WATER DUMPED ON HIM IN THE MEANTIME ACCORDING TO VORONTSOV.

6. VORONTSOV COMMENTED THAT THE TURMOIL IN MOSCOW IN A POLITICAL SENSE IS REAL. EVERYBODY IS RUNNING AROUND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 USUN N 00215 172113Z
TAKING POSITIONS. THERE ARE NO PARTIES FORMED AND IT IS HARD TO GET A DEFINITIVE VIEW, EVEN FOR A VISITOR SUCH AS HE, OF WHERE THINGS ARE GOING. HE REMARKED ON THE ENORMOUS IMPACT OF WHAT HE TERMED THE 29 FOLD PRICE INCREASES ON THE AVERAGE CITIZEN. THE YOUNG ADVISERS AROUND YELTSIN EXPECTED A FOUR OR FIVE FOLD INCREASE. HOWEVER, THE SALES STRUCTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE ESSENTIALLY OPPOSED TO YELTSIN WHO DON'T MIND DRIVING UP THE PRICES FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS.

7. AT THE END OF MY CONVERSATION, VORONTSOV INDICATED HE WILL BE LEAVING NEW YORK AFTER THE JAN 31 SUMMIT TO TAKE UP A SPECIAL ADVISER POSITION WITH YELTSIN IN THE KREMLIN. VORONTSOV REMARKED THAT YELTSIN NEEDS ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET AND HAS ASKED ME TO COME BACK PLAY A ROLE. PICKERING

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