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E.O. 12356: DECL:APRIL 1, 2000
TAGS: PREL, US, RS
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN: MEETING WITH
DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT

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1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN AN HOUR AND 15 MINUTE MEETING WITH RUSSIAN PM CHERNOMYRDIN, DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT DELIVERED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON EMPHASIZING THAT HE WANTS THE UPCOMING SUMMIT TO BE A SUCCESS, THAT WE SHOULD AVOID ANOTHER BUDAPEST, AND THAT KEY ISSUES, INCLUDING EUROPEAN SECURITY, NEED TO BE DISCUSSED AND WELL-PREPARED. TALBOTT STRESSED THE HISTORIC NATURE OF THE SUMMIT AND THE STRONG COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO A SUPPORTIVE POLICY FOR RUSSIAN REFORM AND THE NEED TO AVOID LETTING RUSSIAN POLICY BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE IN THE AMERICAN CAMPAIGN, AND AMERICAN POLICY IN THE UPCOMING RUSSIAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN WAS SUPPORTIVE OF THESE GOALS, COMMITTED TO REFORM, AND STRESSED THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF AMERICA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE REFORM PROCESS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. ON THE RED SQUARE PARADE, THERE WILL BE NO CHECHEN VETERANS AND NO CHECHEN-ASSOCIATED UNITS. ON TIMAN PECHORA, CHERNOMYRDIN SEES NO OBSTACLES TO SETTLEMENT BY THE SUMMIT. HE CALLED COCOM A GROWING IRRITANT, AND DESCRIBED THE EFFORTS HE PERSONALLY WAS MAKING, SPENDING ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF HIS TIME ON CHECHNYA, TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THAT TROUBLED REGION. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEXT STAGE WILL NOT BE MILITARY AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO PARDON ALL WHO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. HE DESCRIBED THE REESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICES IN CHECHNYA, THE GOR'S HOPES FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, AND WELCOMED THE OSCE PERMANENT MISSION AND U.S. ELECTION OBSERVERS. END SUMMARY.

3. PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SENIOR STAFF OFFICER TARASOV, DFM MAMEDOV, AND AN INTERPRETER MET WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND THE AMBASSADOR FOR AN HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES ON APRIL 7 IN HIS OFFICE AT THE RUSSIAN WHITE HOUSE.

4. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS, THE DEPUTY



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SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON JUST BEFORE LEAVING FOR MOSCOW. THE PRESIDENT ASKED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO CONVEY HIS THOUGHTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THROUGH THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT YELTSIN. THE PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THE UPCOMING SUMMIT MEETING. THE LAST MEETING IN BUDAPEST HAD NOT GONE WELL. THE ISSUE IN BUDAPEST WAS, OF COURSE, EUROPEAN SECURITY. THINGS HAD BEEN WORKING WELL WHEN BOTH PRESIDENTS WERE WORKING HARD TOGETHER. THE PRESIDENT HAS CONFIDENCE THAT HE AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN CAN DEAL CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE EUROPEAN SECURITY ISSUE WHEN THEY MEET AGAIN ON MAY 9 AND 10 AT THE SUMMIT.

5. PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD ASKED HIM TO STRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKING MAY 10 A SUCCESS AND AN ACHIEVEMENT, AND WANTS THE VISIT TO MAKE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF BOTH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES. MAY 9 AND MAY 10 WILL ALLOW PRESIDENT CLINTON TO SEND A POSITIVE MESSAGE TO ALL RUSSIAN CITIZENS AND TO THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE.

6. REGARDING THE PAST, HE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE UNDYING RESPECT AND GRATITUDE FOR THE SACRIFICES OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE IN THE VICTORY IN ONE OF THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE STRUGGLES OF THE 20TH CENTURY, WORLD WAR II. WE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE DURING THE WAR; IT IS NATURAL FOR US TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE IN THE FUTURE. THE PRESIDENT ALSO FEELS DEEP RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE TODAY FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY SACRIFICES THEY ARE MAKING FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THEIR COUNTRY. THE SUMMIT WILL SERVE TO REASSURE HIM AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THE RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO REFORM. IT ALSO WILL ALLOW HIM TO REASSURE THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE AND THE RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE STEADFAST IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR REFORM IN RUSSIA. THE TWO DEMOCRATS WHO WILL MEET ON MAY 9 AND 10 PROBABLY WILL BE GETTING TOGETHER BILATERALLY FOR THE LAST TIME BEFORE THEY BECOME DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS. (AT THIS POINT, PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN CHECKED EXACTLY WHEN THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN 1996 AND CONFIRMED THAT THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WOULD OCCUR IN JUNE, 1996.)

7. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO USE THE SUMMIT AS A FORCE FOR STABILITY FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AS WE MOVE AHEAD IN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

8. THE PRIME MINISTER AGREED WITH WHAT HAD BEEN SAID MAY 9 AND 10 WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH OF US, DESPITE THE EXISTING DIFFICULTIES. THERE ARE

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OBVIOUSLY, CERTAIN THINGS THAT WE MUST DO IN THE COMING DAYS. THERE IS NO DOUBT OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES, BUT WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM WITHOUT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO LEADERS. TO OUR PEOPLE, THE DIFFERENCES AT THE MOMENT ARE LESS VISIBLE, AND FOR THEM, RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES REMAIN QUITE GOOD. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN ESTABLISHING STABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. CERTAIN PEOPLE IN BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES, OF COURSE, TAKE NOTICE OF WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. CERTAINLY HISTORIANS IN THE FUTURE WILL BE ABLE POSITIVELY TO JUDGE THE CURRENT PERIOD. THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THAT WE NOW WERE FACING A PERIOD OF TRANSFORMATION IN RUSSIA AND ONE OF



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PROFOUND REFORM. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND INDEED WITHOUT SUCH GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, THE WHOLE PROCESS DOMESTICALLY WOULD SUFFER. IT PARTICULARLY IS IMPORTANT THAT THE UNITED STATES BE ABLE TO DEPEND ON THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF RUSSIA'S LEADERS ON KEY ISSUES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS, AND THAT IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF HIMSELF AND OF PRESIDENT YELTSIN. OF COURSE, THERE ARE PROBLEMS TO SOLVE. WE NOW ARE ENGAGED INTENSIVELY IN PREPARATIONS FOR MAY 9 AND 10.

9. IN RUSSIA, OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION PAID TO PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS AT THE END OF 1995 AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, LIKE YOURS, IN 1996. PRESIDENT YELTSIN IS A WISE LEADER AND POLITICIAN AND UNDERSTOOD THIS WELL.

10. FOR THE VERY SIGNIFICANT 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY, LEADERS OF ALL THE ALLIES WHO FOUGHT THE GERMANS ARE COMING TO RUSSIA AS GUESTS - LEADERS WHOSE COUNTRIES HAD FOUGHT THE GREATEST HORROR OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THIS IS A GOOD SIGN. THEY WILL FIND RUSSIA A COUNTRY WHICH IS TOGETHER AND WELCOMING. THERE IS THE GOOD SYMBOLISM IN THIS MEETING -- THAT WE ALL WERE AND ARE ON THE SAME SIDE AND THAT THE LEADERS ARE HERE AS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE.

11. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY PERRY EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT DURING THE YALTA CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT HAD SAID THAT LEADERS NEED TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO PREVENT WAR FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS. PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN SAID TODAY'S LEADERS NOW MUST DO THEIR UTMOST TO PREVENT WAR FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER 50 YEARS. WE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING PEACE, AND WE MUST NOW DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO ASSURE THAT IT REMAINS. THE MODEL BEFORE US MUST SURELY BE THE ONE WHICH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ENVISAGED. WE HAVE PERSEVERED IN THE PAST BY WORKING TOGETHER AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE WITH HARD WORK. THIS IS A GOOD OBJECTIVE, AND IT WILL BE OF GREAT INTEREST BOTH TO EUROPE AND ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. HE WANTED TO THANK THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND THROUGH HIM, PRESIDENT CLINTON VERY MUCH FOR THE THOUGHTS WHICH HE HAD PASSED ON.

12. CHERNOMYRDIN CONTINUED: THE SUPPORT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN US PERSONALLY FOR OUR REFORMS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE PROCESS WILL NOT BE EASY; INDEED, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT. AS WE ENTERED 1995, WE ADOPTED A VERY STRICT BUDGET. WE WORKED HARD WITH THE IMF ON THE AGREEMENT WITH THEM. PERSONALLY, I WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT WE IMPLEMENT ALL THE PARAMETERS OF THE IMF AGREEMENT. THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF OUR GOVERNMENT. FROM YOUR SIDE, WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY YOUR MORAL SUPPORT. AS WE GO ON IN THIS DIRECTION, IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AGAINST THE REFORM AND WHO WILL TRY TO UNDERCUT OUR EFFORTS. IT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO PROCEED WITH REFORM. THE EXTREMISTS WILL TRY TO CHANGE DIRECTIONS, AND WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT AND WILL KEEP ON IN THE PRESENT LINE. IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO MEET THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GOALS, BUT AGAIN I EMPHASIZE OUR INTENTION TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

13. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON MAY 9. FROM 1941-1945 WE WORKED TOGETHER TO END THE WAR. THEN, FROM THE LATE 1940'S TO THE 1980'S, THE OVERWHELMING POTENTIAL FOR A THERMONUCLEAR CATASTROPHE ENSURED THAT WE DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID A CLASH. NOW, WE CAN MOVE AHEAD INTO THE FUTURE AS PARTNERS. STILL, MANY AMERICANS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE OUR PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION. AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE CAN DO



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TOGETHER, TALBOTT SAID HE ALWAYS CITES THE GORE-CHERNOMYRDIN PROCESS, IN WHICH YOU HAVE PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE. WE PLACE THE HIGHEST VALUE ON WHAT YOU

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HAVE DONE TO KEEP YOUR COUNTRY MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS THANKS.

14. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON THE IMF AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPORTANCE. HE HAD MET WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT ON THE DAY THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED. TOGETHER THEY HAD RECALLED THE PRIME MINISTER'S FIRST DINNER IN BLAIR HOUSE, DURING WHICH THEY HAD TALKED ABOUT THE IMF AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MICHEL CAMDESSUS. UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP, THIS ACTIVITY HAS COME A VERY LONG WAY INDEED.

15. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN IN JUWE. IT WOULD BE TERRIFIC, THE VICE PRESIDENT THOUGHT, IF WE COULD CONCLUDE THE TIMAN PECHORA DEAL BEFORE THE SUMMIT.

16. ANOTHER ISSUE ON WHICH WE HAVE WORKED HARD WAS COCOM. WE JUST HAVE RECEIVED YOUR REPLY ON THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS. WE STILL HAVE SOME WORK TO DO, BUT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS CONFIDENT WE CAN ADVANCE THIS PROCESS WITH HARD WORK ON BOTH SIDES. THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD WRITE TO HIM SHORTLY ON THIS SUBJECT.

17. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT PRESIDENT YELTSIN HAD GIVEN THE PRIME MINISTER A MANDATE TO FIND A PEACEFUL POLITICAL SOLUTION IN CHECHNYA. HE ASKED IF THERE IS ANYTHING THE PRIME MINISTER COULD TELL US ABOUT THE SITUATION. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR CONCERN.

18. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID FIRST HE WANTED TO SPEAK ABOUT THE IMF AND SOME OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THEY NOW HAVE SIGNED TWO AGREEMENTS WITH THE IMF AND IT IS NECESSARY, AND THEY UNDERSTOOD THIS FULLY, TO MAINTAIN FULL CONTROL OVER ALL OF THE PARAMETERS. THIS HAD HELPED TO REDUCE INFLATION DURING 1994. THEY INTEND TO CONTROL THESE PARAMETERS EVEN MORE CLOSELY AGAIN IN 1995. THERE ARE MANY IN RUSSIA WHO ARE AGAINST THE IMF, THE WORLD BANK, AND THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AND ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE WAS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP MOVING AHEAD, AND WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO STAY ON THE LINES THAT HAVE BEEN SET OUT, HE ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN SUPPORT.

19. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, CHERNOMYRDIN SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH BY PHONE EARLIER IN THE WEEK. THE NEXT MEETING IS SET FOR JUNE 29 AND 30. BEFORE THAT, THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL FLY WITH HIS FAMILY TO VLADIVOSTOK AND TO THE LAKE BAIKAL REGION.

20. ON THE TIMAN PECHORA PROJECT, CHERNOMYRDIN SAW NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION. HE SAID HE WOULD APPLY HIMSELF TO THIS ISSUE. THERE ARE NO INSUPERABLE PROBLEMS.

21. ON COCOM, CHERNOMYRDIN SAID ONLY THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO PUT IT BEHIND US. IT WAS BECOMING A SIGNIFICANT IRRITANT. RUSSIA IS CONTINUALLY CHALLENGED TO EXPLAIN WHY WE ARE NOT A PART OF THIS POST-COCOM REGIME.



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22. ON CHECHNYA, HE SAID THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS CLEAR -- TO END ALL HOSTILITIES. HE WAS SURE THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT OBJECTIVE. THE PRESIDENT HAS MET WITH HIM AND HAS AGREED IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO END THE ARMED CONFLICT. IN THAT REGARD, CHERNOMYRDIN MET WITH THE TWO CLOSEST RELATIVES OF GENERAL DUDAYEV, HIS FINANCE MINISTER AND HIS ECONOMIC MINISTER. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAD OFFERED TO PARDON ALL CHECHENS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS, AND THEY WILL PARDON THEM. IF THEIR RELATIVES RETURN, THE RUSSIANS WILL HELP REPATRIATE THEM TO CHECHNYA. THEY HAVE OFFERED TO SEND CHECHENS ABROAD IF THEY SO DESIRE. WE ARE DETERMINED TO STOP THE MILITARY OPERATION, CHERNOMYRDIN STRESSED. HAPPILY, NOW IT IS PRACTICALLY OVER. WHILE THERE ARE STILL SOME ARMED BANDS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY, THEY WILL BE GIVEN A CHOICE: THEY MAY LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND BE PARDONED, OR BE "ELIMINATED."

23. THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED A STATEMENT BY MR. KHADJIEV, THE ACTING HEAD OF THE TEMPORARY CHECHEN GOVERNMENT, CALLING UPON ALL CHECHENS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS AND RECEIVE THE PARDON OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN THIS REGARD, THERE ARE CHECHEN CUSTOMS THAT WE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO. CHECHENS WILL NOT GIVE UP THEIR ARMS WITHOUT COMPENSATION. BUT UNDER THEIR CUSTOMS, THEY CAN SELL THEIR ARMS. WE ARE PREPARED TO BUY THEM OUT.

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LIFE CLEARLY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH IS HINDERED BY THE PRESENCE OF FANATICS

24. AS FAR AS THE PRESENT SITUATION IS CONCERNED, THIS MORNING (APRIL 7) THE RUSSIAN FORCES OPENED THE RAILROAD LINE TO DAGESTAN AND TO AZERBAIJAN. NOW, IT IS POSSIBLE TO TRANSPORT HEAVY EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS POWERSTATION EQUIPMENT, TO GROZNY. GROZNY AIRPORT WILL OPEN SOON TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. ALTHOUGH THE AIRPORT IS STILL UNDER MILITARY CONTROL, IT WILL ACCEPT CIVIL AND SOME OTHER INTERNATIONAL AIRCRAFT. ALSO, THE RAILROAD IN THE SOUTHERN DIRECTION IS UNDER RUSSIAN CONTROL AND WILL BE REOPENED. IF IT IS NECESSARY, AND RUSSIANS ARE PLEASED THAT SOME 1,500 LOCAL CHECHENS TO MAINTAIN FULL CONTROL HAVE ENTERED INTO INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES OF THE NEW THIS WOULD BE HELD TO BRING GOVERNMENT. PEACE, CHERNOMYRDIN EMPHASIZED, IS THE ONLY PRE-CONDITION TO PROGRESS.

25. A CLEAN UP AND RESTORATION OF THE BATTLE DESTROYED AREAS HAS BEGUN. IT WAS GOOD THAT HEAVY EQUIPMENT CAN BE MOVED BY RAILROAD AND BY THE ROAD SYSTEM. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO RESTORE THE SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE IS AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN CHECHNYA. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE CONCEPT OF A DEMOCRATIC ELECTION. MOSCOW HAS INVITED THE OSCE TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE IN GROZNY. IT CAN MONITOR THE ELECTIONS WHEN THEY OCCUR. THE U.S. SHOULD DO SO ALSO, AND CHERNOMYRDIN HOPES WE WILL SEND OBSERVERS TO REVIEW THE ELECTIONS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE APPRECIATED THE BRIEFING VERY MUCH AND EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ASKED WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TIME CHERNOMYRDIN CURRENTLY WAS SPENDING ON CHECHNYA, AND CHERNOMYRDIN SAID HE LITERALLY WAS UP TO HIS EARS IN THE SUBJECT. WHILE IT VARIED FROM DAY TO DAY, AND SOME DAYS IT WAS VERY HEAVY, HE ESTIMATED THAT HE WAS SPENDING AN AVERAGE OF 30 PER CENT OF HIS TIME IN DEALING WITH THE QUESTION.

26. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID "WHAT A SORE SPOT"

*Response?
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CHECHNYA HAS BEEN FOR RUSSIA. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT TRAGEDY, AND HE WANTS TO END IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE OTHER AREAS AND CENTERS WHERE THE POPULATION HAD TURNED THE MILITANTS OUT. THEY NEED TO WORK FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, AND INTEND TO PUSH AHEAD ON THAT SOON AS WELL AS A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE PEOPLE OF CHECHNYA.

27. IT HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE ISSUE, ESPECIALLY THE EVENTS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSITION OF AZERBAIJAN. WEAPONS ARE COMING IN FROM AZERBAIJAN. CHERNOMYRDIN SPOKE TO ALIEV ABOUT THE PROBLEM, AND ALIEV SAID HE WOULD DO WHATEVER HE COULD TO PREVENT THE TRANSPORT OF ARMS ACROSS THE BORDER.

28. MAMEDOV SAID HE HOPED THE PRIME MINISTER COULD REASSURE THOSE OFFICIALS IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND ELSEWHERE THAT MILITARY FORCES FROM CHECHNYA WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MAY 9 MILITARY PARADE THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON WOULD ATTEND. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE FULLY AGREED. HE ASKED ABOUT COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD ATTEND IN WASHINGTON. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THERE WOULD BE A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY ON MAY 8 AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY WHERE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS BURIED, AND THEN THE PRESIDENT WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO THE AIRPORT TO FLY TO MOSCOW.

29. THE PRIME MINISTER CLOSED BY ASKING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO CONVEY HIS VERY BEST WISHES TO THE PRESIDENT, TO THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND TO THE SECRETARY. HE SAID THAT RUSSIA ANTICIPATES SUCCESS ON MAY 9 AND 10. HE WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT YELTSIN ON THEIR TALKS. HE WOULD EMPHASIZE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT WE WERE ATTACHING TO SUCCESS IN THE SUMMIT TALKS ON MAY 9 AND 10, AND WOULD REPORT FULLY AND CLEARLY EVERYTHING THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY.

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... THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR IN ITS POSITION THAT IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CHECHNYA PROBLEM. IT IS INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR IN ITS POSITION THAT IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CHECHNYA PROBLEM. IT IS INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR IN ITS POSITION THAT IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CHECHNYA PROBLEM. IT IS INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

... A CLEAN UP OF THE REMAINS OF THE CHECHNYA WAR HAS BEGUN. IT WAS GOOD THAT THE MILITARY HAS BEEN MOVED BY THE ROAD. THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO BRING THE CHECHNYA PROBLEM TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO BRING THE CHECHNYA PROBLEM TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

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