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TAGS: PREL, NATO, RS

SUBJECT: BILATERAL MEETINGS IN ISTANBUL: GUIDANCE FOR

11/24 NAC

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CLASSIFIED BY EUR/RPM:DEPUTY DIRECTOR PATRICK MOON. REASON
1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) MISSION SHOULD FEEL FREE TO DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING
POINTS TO BRIEF THE NOVEMBER 24 NAC ON THE CLINTON-YELTSIN
AND ALBRIGHT-IVANOV MEETINGS ON THE MARGINS OF THE OSCE
SUMMIT IN ISTANBUL.

2. (C) CLINTON-YELTSIN MEETING 11/18

-- THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL BUT BUSINESSLIKE IN TONE.
YELTSIN INVITED PRESIDENT CLINTON TO MOSCOW, BUT THE
PRESIDENT MADE NO COMMITMENT. THE MAJORITY OF THE MEETING
FOCUSED ON CHECHNYA.

CHECHNYA

-- YELTSIN SAID RUSSIA WAS UNDER THREAT FROM "MERCILESS
TERRORISTS" AND PEACE WOULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE BY

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Stephen Worrel, Senior
Reviewer**

ELIMINATING THE TERRORISTS. RUSSIA HAS NO INTENTION OF

HARMING CIVILIANS, BUT THE REBELS ARE BEING SUPPORTED BY RADICAL FUNDAMENTALISTS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION.

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON AGREED ON THE NEED TO COMBAT TERRORISM AND SAID THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO WORK WITH RUSSIA ON CUTTING OFF RESOURCES TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, THE U.S. IS CONCERNED THAT RUSSIAN MILITARY TACTICS WILL UNDERMINE THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL AND LEAD TO A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. THE PRESIDENT URGED YELTSIN TO SEEK POLITICAL DIALOGUE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO A
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SOLELY MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT.

ARMS CONTROL

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON EXPLAINED THAT HE WILL MAKE A DECISION ABOUT NMD NEXT YEAR BASED ON SEVERAL FACTORS: THREAT, COST, TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY, EFFECT ON ARMS CONTROL AND OUR OVERALL SECURITY. THE PRESIDENT REITERATED THAT NMD IS DIRECTED AT ROGUE STATES AND DOES NOT POSE A THREAT TO THE RUSSIAN DETERRENT.

-- YELTSIN NOTED THAT HE HAD SENT THE CTBT TREATY TO THE DUMA FOR RATIFICATION. PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID HE BELIEVED THE SENATE WOULD TAKE THIS UP AGAIN AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE AND WOULD RATIFY THE TREATY.

ELECTIONS

-- PRESIDENT CLINTON TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A SMOOTH DEMOCRATIC SUCCESSION FROM ONE LEADER TO ANOTHER. HE NOTED THAT ELECTIONS ARE KEY TO RUSSIA'S TRANSFORMATION, AND REITERATED THE EXPECTATION THAT THEY WILL BE HELD ON SCHEDULE. YELTSIN REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO THAT SCHEDULE, AND DESCRIBED THE POLITICAL PROCESS UNDERWAY.

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3. (C) SECRETARY-IVANOV MEETING 11/17

-- SECRETARY ALBRIGHT HELD AN HOUR-LONG BILATERAL WITH FM IVANOV ON THE EVENING BEFORE THE SUMMIT OPENED AND HAD SEVERAL OTHER DISCUSSIONS AND PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM OVER THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS.

CHECHNYA/OSCE

-- THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HER CONCERNS ABOUT CHECHNYA OVERSHADOWING THE SUMMIT.

-- SHE STRESSED THE NEED FOR RUSSIAN AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE ON CHECHNYA IN THE OVERALL SUMMIT DECLARATION AS VALIDATION OF THE ROLE OF OSCE IN HELPING RESOLVE CONFLICTS WITHIN STATES -- A MAJOR THEME OF THE SUMMIT.

-- IVANOV SAID COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIAN ENTITIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE WORKED OUT, BUT INITIALLY ARGUED THAT A ROLE FOR THE OSCE IN POLITICAL RESOLUTION OF THE CHECHNYA CONFLICT WAS PROBLEMATIC.

-- IVANOV NOTED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1996 WHEN RUSSIA WITHDREW AND THE OSCE FILLED THE VOID AND THE CURRENT SITUATION; TODAY, HE ARGUED, RUSSIA IS ADMINISTERING THE TERRITORY AND THE OSCE ONLY NEEDS TO FILL A HUMANITARIAN ROLE.

-- THROUGH HARD BARGAINING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IVANOV WAS UNULTIMATELY CONVINCED TO ACCEPT THE LANGUAGE
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THAT APPEARED IN THE SUMMIT DECLARATION STATING THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL RESOLUTION AND OSCE'S ROLE IN PROMOTING IT.

-- HARD WORK LIES AHEAD WITH MOSCOW, HOWEVER, TO ENSURE THAT THE SUMMIT COMMITMENTS VIS-A-VIS OSCE ARE FOLLOWED BY PRACTICAL STEPS. THE UPCOMING VISIT BY OSCE CIO VOLLEBAEK TO MOSCOW AND THEN TO THE NORTH CAUCASUS WILL BE A TEST OF RUSSIAN SERIOUSNESS.

CFE TREATY

-- IN THEIR INITIAL MEETING, THE SECRETARY AND IVANOV DISCUSSED THE END GAME FOR THE CFE.

-- THE SECRETARY STRESSED AS MUST-HAVE PRIORITIES THE NEED FOR AGREEMENTS WITH GEORGIA/MOLDOVA AND A REAFFIRMATION OF PUTIN'S COMMITMENT TO RETURN TO CFE EQUIPMENT LEVELS POST-CHECHNYA.

-- IVANOV COMMITTED RUSSIA TO A SERIOUS SEARCH FOR ACCOMMODATION WITH THE GEORGIANS AND MOLDOVANS OVER RUSSIAN BASES, AND MET PERSONALLY WITH HIS GEORGIAN COUNTERPART TO OUTLINE THE FINAL DEAL.

-- WHEN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN MILITARY AND MOLDOVAN LEADERS FALTERED NEAR THE FINISH LINE, THE SECRETARY MADE A NEAR-MIDNIGHT PHONE CALL TO IVANOV TO STRESS THE NEED FOR A FAIR DEAL.

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-- THE SECRETARY SAID SHE WAS GLAD IVANOV WOULD SEE BOTH ALIYEV AND KOCHARIAN IN ISTANBUL. BOTH SIDES NEEDED TO KNOW THAT RUSSIA AND THE U.S. ARE READY TO MOVE FORWARD.

-- IVANOV REITERATED RUSSIAN BACKING FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT, AND SAID RUSSIA WAS READY TO SUPPORT WHATEVER THE TWO PRESIDENTS CAN SUPPORT.
ALBRIGHT

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