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NSC-NICK BURNS

RELEASE IN FULL

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Translated from Russian

Moscow, the Kremlin

November 2, 1994

Dear Bill:

This is an answer to your letter of October 25.

Your ideas regarding the value and the priority of our partnership accord with my approach. A mutually beneficial partnership with the United States on the basis of equality is for us a strategic choice. It is functioning, and well, despite emerging discords. Obviously, these are unavoidable, since our states have their own interests which have been shaping for centuries. However, the issue is not so much the existence of discords, but the way in which to approach and overcome them.

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of Russia
of Yeltsin
cc: Brad
for Sect.
- IHR
MS Sect.

I believe that the degree of trust we have reached between us presupposes a careful treatment of the partner's view, even if it makes one to adjust his plans. There should exist the basic understanding that Russian-American partnership constitutes the central factor in the world's politics. If we let ourselves weaken it, seeking a transient gain, we'll undermine the positive perspective of international development, and reduce the chances of settlement of specific problems - be it issues of Bosnia or Iraq.

I share your words on the importance of a personal trustworthy contact between the presidents.

Now regarding the specific issues.

On the situation around Iraq, I view this misunderstanding as settled. The main thing is that we have managed to switch the process of the crisis settlement onto political track. I do not have an impression that we have come back to a situation we had been in a few months ago. We have a program of action. The prospect of legal recognition of Kuwait by Iraq has become more clear. When this transforms into a fact, the

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Washington, D.C.

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international community is expected to adequately respond to it. We should not seal the existing situation, otherwise an explosion will be inevitable.

On the situation in Bosnia, it is important to support Belgrade, whose constructive stand presents the main chance to reopen the path to political settlement. A priority issue here is to deblock humanitarian deliveries to Yugoslavia. As regards the issue of arms embargo which is rather difficult for you, I believe that we should find a solution acceptable for all members of the contact group.

It is important to continue our cooperative work on the North Korean issue. I would like to hope that the agreement signed between the United States and the DPRK will lead to a return of the DPRK into the NPT. However, it remains questionable for us how far the DPRK's monitoring obligations stipulated by this agreement correspond with the requirements of the NPT and IAEA equally applicable to all.

There is an aspect which directly touches upon our interests. We have already discussed it with you. We cannot be satisfied if Russia is pushed aside from a full-fledged participation in restructuring North Korea's nuclear program. I expect that our light-water reactors will be considered without bias, the more so, since they are acceptable for the DPRK. This is what they openly tell us in Pyongyang.

I would like to note the role you played in ensuring Russia's participation at the Winnipeg conference on assistance to economic reforms in Ukraine. It is a question of principle for us. Apart from Russia, no one in fact renders currently any serious assistance to Ukraine. President Kuchma has complained to me about that recently in Moscow. I have promised to support him and have sent Mr. Kozyrev to Winnipeg where he presented our new package of assistance to Ukraine. The "Winnipeg package" weighs 700 million dollars. Regrettably, the reciprocal contributions of other "G-8" members are clearly inadequate yet to the scope of most severe economic problems confronting Ukraine. I await your help in this issue.

In general we have established very good mutual understanding, including in personal terms, with President Kuchma. I have once again stressed the importance of compliance with the tripartite agreement regarding Ukraine's joining the NPT and rendering security guarantees to Kiev by the depositary states of this Treaty. There exists no ambiguity now on this issue between me and President Kuchma. We are planning to resolve all specific bilateral issues with signing of a historic Russian-Ukrainian treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership during my upcoming visit to Kiev.

Bearing this in mind I am ready to make a decision now with regard to signing a document on guarantees. It is clear the leaders' signatures should seal a really milestone document which would cover all the concerns of Ukraine which is fraternal to us. Until yet there are too many "caverns" in the draft. In particular, in Ukraine's western flank where Ukraine has its own problems. At present, against the background of discussions on expanding NATO, these concerns look even more serious. The same is true regarding the issue of "flank limitations". As you know, it also exists for Ukraine.

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That is why I propose to urgently instruct our experts to finalize the draft text of the agreement on guarantees, for us to be able to sign it in Budapest with clear conscience. Time is pressing us here with due notice to the work that President Kuchma is conducting now with the Rada.

so I take this as a "yes" ~

Bill,

It is utmostly important to fill our political mutual understanding regarding partnership with practical equal partnership and precise coordination of actions on these most vital issues.

I count very much on meeting with you in Budapest. We have much to talk about, and first of all, about transforming European stability structures.

Sincerely,

B. YELTSIN