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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Yeltsin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Russian President Yeltsin

Notetakers: Robin Rickard, James Smith
Michael Manning, Roger Merletti, Stuart
Kaufman

Interpreter: Kyrill Borissow

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: 7 June 1999, 11:07 - 11:14 a.m. EST,
Oval Office

President Yeltsin: Good afternoon, Bill. (U)

The President: Hello, Boris. Thank you for taking this call. I think we are on the verge of a very important achievement to get an end to the bombing and the return of refugees, as we discussed last April. As you remember, on that day you suggested that Viktor Stepanovich engage with the Vice President, and since then he has worked with Al Gore, President Ahtisaari and Strobe Talbott and has come up with an excellent plan, which President Milosevic accepted last Friday. ~~et~~

President Yeltsin: I think, Bill, we have come a long way together, and the only thing remaining is for us to finalize this work. ~~et~~

The President: I agree with that. If we can get agreement today on a UN Security Council resolution covering the peacekeeping force in the G-8 meeting going on now in Germany, I think everything will work out all right. I think it's important that Ivanov do everything possible to reach an agreement. Your role has been indispensable until now. This can all be over very quickly and will set the

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stage for the G-8 meeting in Cologne in two weeks and a great Russian diplomatic triumph. ~~(C)~~

President Yeltsin: I have been thinking a lot and with concern about the possibility of losing the positive experience we gained together with you. This would be extremely dangerous. ~~(C)~~

The President: I agree with that. I have told our people, and I know the other Europeans have been told, that we need to reach agreement today, and I hope you can tell Ivanov this. If we can get agreement on a Security Council resolution, we can work the sequencing out, so they begin to withdraw, then we have a bombing pause, then we pass a resolution, then the peacekeeping forces go in, and we can all go to work. That's what we have to do. But we have to make sure nothing happens to make Milosevic think he can stall; we can't let him stall or backslide. If he had done what he told Chernomyrdin Friday, there would be no bombs falling today. We have to go forward, we need to pass the draft resolution today. I hope you will do all you can. The G-8 needs to approve it. ~~(C)~~

President Yeltsin: I fully agree with you. If we fail to join our efforts together, we will certainly have failed. ~~(C)~~

The President: I will call Madeleine right now and tell her to redouble our efforts. Will you do the same with Ivanov? ~~(C)~~

President Yeltsin: Of course, of course, Bill, and immediately. ~~(C)~~

The President: Good. Let's keep working at it, Boris. We can do this today, and it will be a great triumph for Russian diplomacy, and then when we get to the G-8 in Cologne, we will have something to celebrate rather than worry about. And I will lead the ovation. ~~(C)~~

President Yeltsin: Okay, agreed. I agree with this. If any misunderstanding would exist between us, I would be able to get in touch and give the necessary instructions to my minister, Ivanov. ~~(C)~~

The President: That is very good news. Thank you, Boris.
(U)

President Yeltsin: Goodbye, Bill. Thank you for this conversation. (U)