

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 9, 1999



MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Yeltsin of Russia

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Russian President Yeltsin

Interpreter: Nikolai Sorokin
Notetakers: Bonnie Glick, Sean Tarver, Roger Merletti, Don Cheramie

DATE, TIME: June 8, 1999, 8:58 - 9:13 a.m., EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

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The President: Hello, Boris. (U)

President Yelstin: Hello, Bill, how are you? Well, Bill, Minister Ivanov has reported to me on the progress of the work on the UN Security Council resolution on Kosovo, and he told me that by and large his work has been completed. The text has been agreed upon in its main elements. I believe this is the result of my instructions to Ivanov and your instructions to your representative. And as a follow-on to our conversation of yesterday, immediately after our conversation, I got in touch with my Foreign Minister and told him that no matter what happens, he must stay there, don't come back. And I believe he was there, and he immediately began his work with his G-8 partners on all these things, and I believe he has done a good job, and this has been a success. What do you think, Bill? (S)

The President: First, I want to tell you, I appreciated our talk yesterday, and I'm thrilled that we reached agreement on the text of the UN Security Council resolution today. I think it shows that when we make our partnership work, we can do whatever we need to do. Strobe Talbott and his team are coming to Moscow soon to work with your team on the military details so we can have a formula to allow Russia to participate in the international security force. We made it work in Bosnia, and we

need to do it again and get the details worked out. We also have to get the military-technical agreement done with Serbia to make sure Milosevic honors his commitments to you and all of us so the Chernomyrdin-Ahtisaari diplomatic breakthrough will last. That way we can use next week's meeting in Cologne to put the spotlight on Russia's efforts and to make the peace work. ~~(S)~~

President Yeltsin: Bill, just a second, Bill. When we talked this matter over with you, I think we agreed that if I give the necessary authority to Ivanov to complete the work on the resolution and to agree on the text as we have discussed with you, then the bombing will be stopped. ~~(S)~~

The President: As soon as they begin to withdraw, then it will. Believe me, I am anxious to do that. And once he begins the withdrawal, then we will stop. That was the agreement Milosevic reached with Chernomyrdin and Ahtisaari, and once he begins the withdrawals, then we will stop. ~~(S)~~

President Yeltsin: Well, I believe that perhaps there was a little bit of misunderstanding between us. As I recall our conversation, we agreed very firmly that once the UN Security Council resolution is agreed upon, it will be up to you to stop the bombing, and it will be up to me to get Ivanov to complete the work on the resolution. I recall our agreement included this element of cessation of bombing once a resolution is agreed upon. Do I understand that you are now drawing back? ~~(S)~~

The President: No, Boris. Ahtisaari and Chernomyrdin made an agreement with Milosevic that Milosevic would begin to withdraw, and when he began, we would end the bombing. He then said that he did not want to withdraw until there is a UN resolution. But the Serbs are now meeting with NATO military representatives to conclude the agreement. Once they finish, the Serbs can begin to withdraw, but under the Ahtisaari-Chernomyrdin agreement, they will begin the withdrawal and immediately the bombing will stop. And that could happen very, very soon. If Milosevic had followed through on the agreement he gave to Chernomyrdin and Ahtisaari, then the bombing would have stopped yesterday. They are now meeting, and I think this can happen at any time. I think they are very close to a conclusion, even as we speak. Boris, don't worry, this is going to work out the way you and I agreed. As soon as this conversation is done, I will get back to my people who are working on this, and it will work out. ~~(S)~~

President Yeltsin: Well, Bill, I would like to emphasize once again that we firmly link the completion of work on the draft

resolution with the conclusion on the bombing of Yugoslavia. I can tell you very frankly that without this, we will not allow the Security Council resolution to go forward. I warned you about this, and do it again, quite frankly. (S)

The President: I understand that. We just have to get Serbia to sign off on the timetable right now, and we will begin. I will do with our people today what you have done with Ivanov. We will get this done, and I will get on it right now. Under the agreement, they have to agree to the timetable. We can stop the bombing and get on with the Security Council resolution. I will get on it right away. I won't waste a minute. (S)

President Yeltsin: OK. Then I will suggest that you call your military right now. Then we will get back in touch and see where we are. (S)

The President: Yes, let's do it. Thank you, Boris. (U)

President Yeltsin: Thank you very much. We are agreed. OK. My best wishes to you. (U)

-- End of Conversation --