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E.O. 12356 DECL: OADR TAGS: PREL, EAID, EFIN, US, RS SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S DINNER WITH PRESIDENT YELTSIN JANUARY 14, 1994

- SECRET ENTIRE TEXT 1.
- 2. THIS CABLE IS FORWARDED FOR YOUR CLEARANCE.

  3. SUMMARY: IN A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ABOUT
  DOMESTIC AND WORLD AFFAIRS ON THE EVENING OF
  JANUARY 13TH. PRESIDENT YELTSIN AND PRESIDENT CLINTON
  TALKED ABOUT THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR UKRAINE AND
  ITS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED ATTITUDES
  IN THE COUNTRY AMONG THE RUSSIAN PROPLE, PRESIDENT
  YELTSIN'S NEW EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE THE PARLIAMENT, AND
  RUSSIAN INTEREST IN REDUCING ARMS TRADE WITH IRAN AND
  OPENING UP THE SANCTIONS REGIME AGAINST IRAO IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE IRAQI REPAYMENT OF A PORTION OF ITS DEBT TO RUSSIA.

THERE WAS A DISCUSSION OF MILITARY COOPERATION—ASSEMBLL AS BOSNIA. PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN BOTH DISCUSSED THE NATURE OF THE U.S.-RUSSIAN—RELATIONSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT RELATIONSHIP TO THE FUTURE OF WORLD STABILITY AND PEACE, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE AND IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE. PRESIDENT YELTSIN SIGNALED A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN HIS CABINET, DROPPING FORMER PRIME MINISTER GAYDAR—TOWORK IN THE LOWER-HOUSE OF THE NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATURE.

PRESIDENT CLINTON EXPLAINED THE CONCEPT OF ENSURING A LONG TERM PEACE IN EUROPE THROUGH FRANK CONSULTATION AND STRONG AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT WITH CARE TAKEN TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR THE INTEREST OF OTHERS. BND SUMMARY.

4. THE PRESIDENT MET WITH PRESIDENT YELTSIN AT THE DACHA AT NOVA OGAREVA OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW ON JANUARY 14TH FOR A DINNER IN WHICH A NUMBER OF BUSINESS ISSUES AROSE. THIS MEMCOM RECORDS THE BUSINESS DISCUSSION. THE THIS MEMCOM RECORDS THE BUSINESS DISCUSSION. THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, SECRETARY BENSON, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR LAKE, AMBASSADOR AT LARGE STROBE TALBOTT AND AMBASSADOR PICKERING. PRESIDENT YELTSIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PRIME MINISTER CHRNOMYRDIN, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SOSKOVETS, FOREIGN MINISTER KOZYREV, DEFENSE MINISTER CHROMYRDIN BY HIG LEGAL ADVISOR LIVINGEN GRACHEV AND BY HIS LEGAL ADVISOR ILLYUSHIN.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS 3/25/2019

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- 5. AFTER OPENING PLEASANTRIES, PRESIDENT CLINTON NOTED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO HAVING HAD A CHANCE TO SEE RUSSIAN PROPLE ON THE STREETS OF MOSCOW. HE TOLD PRESIDENT YELTSIN THAT HE HAD PASSED ON HIS CONCERNS TO PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S ADVISORS ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND THEIR REACTIONS. PRESIDENT YELTSIN CHANGED THE SUBJECT AND NOTED
- 6. PRESIDENT YELTSIN CHANGED THE SUBJECT AND NOTED MRS. YELTSIN HAD CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO A WONDERFUL ARTICLE "IZVESTIA" NEWSPAPER HAD RUN ON PRESIDENT CLINTON. THE ARTICLE ALSO COVERED MRS. CLINTON'S ACTIVITIES.
- 7. PRESIDENT YELTSIN THEN RETURNED TO THE INITIAL COMMENT ABOUT PEOPLE BEING WORRIED. THEY ARE CRITICAL OF US AND THEY ARE CERTAINLY RIGHT, HE SAID. TO DO BETTER, I HAVE SENT SERGEI ALEXANDROVICH FILATOV, THE KREMLIN CHIEF-OF-STAFF, TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR SYSTEM. WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT ABOUT HOW TO BE MORE EFFICIENT AT OUR WORK AND TO SPREAD THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO THOSE WHO CAN CARRY THEM OUT. THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR COLLKAGUES IN THE CABINET IS STRONG AND WE HAVE A STRONG CABINET. STRONG CABINET.
- 8. PRESIDENT CLINTON NOTED THAT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO SPREAD AROUND THE DECISION MAKING. "IF I DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION, I ASK THE CABINET TO DO IT." PRESIDENT YELTSIN AGREED AND SAID THAT IT IS THE SAME IN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. MRS. YELTSIN HAD TOLD HIM THAT IT APPEARED AS IF THE AMERICANS HAD A GOOD ORGANIZATION FOR RUNNING THEIR GOVERNMENT AND QUESTIONED WHY HE DID NOT TAKE SOME LESSONS FROM THEM. NOT TAKE SOME LESSONS FROM THEM.
- 9. PRESIDENT CLINTON NOTED THAT THERE IS AN OLD SAYING ABOUT A PROPHET WITHOUT HONOR IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. HE THEN COMPLIMENTED VICE PRESIDENT GORE, NOTING THAT HE RELIED HEAVILY ON THE VICE PRESIDENT WHO HAS AN EXCELLENT MIND, DOES MANY DIFFERENT THINGS AND DOES THEM WELL. PRESIDENT CLINTON THEN THANKED PRESIDENT YELTSIN FOR WORKING SO CLOSELY WITH VICE PRESIDENT GORE AND PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN AND THE LATTER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE WORK OF THE LATTER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE WORK OF THE

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- 10. PRESIDENT CLINTON\_TURNED THEN TO THE RECEPTION
  WHICH HE HAD JUST COME\_FROM AT SPASO HOUSE NOTING THAT
  HE HAD MET MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS PARTIES.
  PRESIDENT YELTSIN ASKED, IF MEMBERS OF THE UPPER-HOUSE
  WERE THERE AND PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID THAT THEY HAD
  BEEN. PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID THESE PARLIAMENTARIANS
  REMINDED HIM OF HOME. MANY HAD DIFFERENT IDEAS AND
  SOME OF THEM WERE QUITTE GOOD. WE TRY TO MAKE IT A
  PRACTICE OF LOOKING\_AT THESE GOOD IDEAS AS A WAY TO
  IMPROVE OUR JOB PERFORMANCE. PRESIDENT YELTSIN SAID HE
  VERY MUCH AGREED AND THAT HE TOO WANTED TO WORK WITH
  THE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THEIR IDEAS.
- 11. PRESIDENT CLINTON-REMARKED THAT ONE OF THE BIGGEST SURPRISES FOR HIM IN COMING INTO OFFICE WAS GAINING A CLEAR VIEW OF WHAT HE COULD DO AND WHAT HE COULD NOT DO AS PRESIDENT. IN SOME AREAS IT IS MUCH HARDER TO ACT THAN OTHERS, HE SAID, AND IN SOME AREAS HE CAN DO MORE. HE ALSO NOTED TO PRESIDENT YELTSIN THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY SOME OF THE IMPROVED FIGURES ON THE ECONOMY WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED THAT MORNING, INCLUDING THE REDUCTION OF THE DEFICIT FROM 20 TO 9 PERCENT, THE IMPROVED FIGURES ON BRINGING DOWN INFLATION, AND THE FIGURES WHICH SHOWED THAT THE RUBLE WAS BEING STABILIZED OVER TIME.
- PRESIDENT YELTSIN SAID THERE ARE STILL LOTS OF DIFFICULTIES AHRAD IN 1994. "SINCE LAST JANUARY WHEN



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THE PRIME MINISTER AND I FIRST GOT ENGAGED IN THESE PROBLEMS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHANGES AND DIFFICULTIES. THE GENTLEMAN SITTING NEXT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SOSKOVETS IS PARTICULARLY AWARE OF THESE SINCE HE REPRESENTS OUR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SECTOR. IF THINGS GO WRONG THEY ARE GOING TO BE HIS RESPONSIBILITY."

- RESPONSIBILITY."

  13. PRESIDENT YELTSIN THEN SAID TOMORROW WE EXPECT WE CAN DISCUSS MILITARY, SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS QUESTIONS, EXCEPT OF COURSE FOR UKRAINE WHICH IS NOW SETTLED AND ON WHICH WE EXPECT TO HAVE A SIGNING. HE NOTED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE WOULD BE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE AMERICAN INFORMATION ON UKRAINE. (EARLIER, PRESIDENT CLINTON SPOKE TO PRESIDENT YELTSIN ABOUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT HAD COME UP OVER THE DAY, IN CONFORMING THE AGREEMENT TEXT AND SOME CHANGES THE RUSSIANS HAD WANTED TO INTRODUCE, AND ASKED HIM NOT TO DO SO.) YELTSIN CONTINUED THAT THIS WAS A GOOD AGREEMENT AND THAT IT WAS GOOD FOR ALL THE PARTIES. HE NOTED THE TWENTY-BIGHT AND ONE-HALF MONTHS THAT THE UKRAINIANS HAD AGREED, IN THE SECRET LETTER, TO BE THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THEY WOULD DISMANTLE AND MOVE ALL WARHEADS OUT OF UKRAINE. AND TOMORROW, PRESIDENT YELTSIN SAID, "WE WILL MEET AND THEN GO INTO THE ROOM AND SIGN THE OTHER AGREEMENTS AND ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS. THAT HAS ALL BEEN AGREED BY OUR PROTOCOL PEOPLE AND AFTER THAT WE WILL NOT PAY ANYMORE ATTENTION TO KRAVCHUK, WHO WILL LEAVE."
- 14. PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID, HE WOULD WORK TO HONOR THE AGREEMENTS. PRESIDENT YELTSIN SAID THAT HIS PEOPLE HAD TO DO THE TECHNICAL WORK IN UKRAINE ON THE MISSILES. HE SAID, "WE CAN NOT BE RESPONSIBLE, HOWEVER, FOR THE STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THOSE WARHEADS AND MISSILES IF WE ARE NOT PERMITTED ACCESS TO THEM OR TO RECEIVE THEM BACK IN THIS COUNTRY." WHEN WE DISMANTLE THEM WE WILL GET BACK THE NUCLEAR FUEL. AS YOU KNOW, HE TOLD PRESIDENT CLINTON, "WE WILL GIVE UKRAINE ONE HUNDRED TONS OF URANIUM (REFERRING TO THE FUEL ASSEMBLIES CONTAINING LOW-ENRICHED URANIUM) AND WE WILL RECRIVE BACK THE FIRST TWO HUNDRED WARHEADS.
- 15. PRESIDENT YELTSIN THEN SAID "IZVESTIA" HAD WRITTEN
  THAT IF THEY WERE WRITING THE PROGRAM FOR BILL CLINTON
  IN RUSSIA THEY WOULD HAVE DONE IT DIFFERENTLY. THEY
  RECOMMENDED MORE INFORMAL MEETINGS AND WITH DIFFERENT
  CIRCLES. THEY SAID.
  YOU SHOULD SPEAK WITH MORE RANK AND
  FILE PEOPLE. PRESIDENT CLINTON SAID THAT OF COURSE HE
  HAD DONE IT TODAY AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN AGREED THAT WAS
  VERY GOOD.
- 16. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE MEAL, PRESIDENT
  YELTSIN NOTED THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE STILL A PRIMARY
  EXPORTER OF RIFLES AND CARBINES. THEY HAD NOT YET
  PRIVATIZED THEIR ARMS INDUSTRY SO ALL THEIR EXPORTS
  WERE CONSIDERED TO BE A STATE MONOPOLY. WE NOTE YOUR
  REQUEST ABOUT IRAN AND IRAO. WE DO NOT INTEND TO
  EXPORT TO IRAN. HE TOLD PRESIDENT CLINTON THAT WITH

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RESPECT TO IRAN AND THE REPORTS THAT WE ARE BUILDING A TANK FACTORY IN IRAN, ARE TOTALLY INCORRECT. WE ARE NOT DOING SO: HE ADDED THAT WE HAD ONLY TRANSFERRED ONE SUBMARINE, THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY THE FORMER USSIA AND RUSSIA HAD CARRIED IT OUT.

17. TURNING TO IRAO, PRESIDENT YELTSIN SAID THAT THEY WANTED TO REDUCE THE SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAO. THE IRAQIS OWE RUSSIA OVER SIX BILLION DOLLARS. THE RUSSIANS HAD HOPED, REALISTICALLY, OF GETTING BACK THREE BILLION DOLLARS IF IRAQ COULD SELL OIL. THEY