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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic, USSR

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
Boris Yeltsin, President  
Interpreter: Peter Afanassenko  
Notetaker: Ed A. Hewett (NSC Staff)

DATE, TIME: August 21, 1991, 9:20 - 9:31pm  
AND PLACE: Kennebunkport, Maine

President Yeltsin: Good morning, Mr. President. I'm calling from the House of the Supreme Soviet. (U)

President Bush: I'm delighted. (U)

President Yeltsin: As we agreed, I'm reporting on the latest events. (U)

President Bush: Please do. (U)

President Yeltsin: Russian Prime Minister Silayev and Vice President Rutskoy have brought President Gorbachev back to Moscow unharmed and in good health. I am also reporting to you that Defense Minister Yazov, Prime Minister Pavlov, and KGB Chairman Kryuchkov have been taken into custody... (S)

President Bush: Isn't that interesting. (U)

President Yeltsin: ...and, upon my order, with legal sanction, the prosecuting Attorney General of the Soviet Union has begun a case against all conspirators. (S)

President Bush: I see. (U)

President Yeltsin: I want to congratulate you with the fact that in our country democracy has won a great victory. We must work together so that this will never repeat itself. Thank you very, very much for your tremendous help and support for us in the eyes of the whole world. I congratulate you myself and thank the American people. (U)

President Bush: My friend, your stock is sky-high over here. You displayed respect for law and stood for democratic principles. Congratulations. You were the ones on the front

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line, who stood on the barricades - all we did was support you. You brought Gorbachev back intact. You restored him to power. You have won a lot of friends around the world. We support and congratulate you on your courage and what you've done. If you will now accept some advice from a friend - get some rest, get some sleep. (U)

President Yeltsin: Thank you. Well, Mr. President, I want to say that victory triumphed. Thank you for your kind words and support during these past 72 hours. The Russian people deserve the victory and can be proud. There are no more barricades. The bad guys can't get to the barricades. It has been a great day for democracy. Now I will get some sleep. (U)

President Bush: It is a wonderful day for the world. My heartfelt congratulations to you and all who stood with you. It was a wonderful example to the world. God bless you. (U)

President Yeltsin: Yes, Mr. President. We will maintain and be in contact. We have received tremendous moral support from you the last several days. (U)

President Bush: Thank you. Now get some rest. We will be in touch and are thinking of you. Boris, one more question - is General Moiseyev behaving? ~~(S)~~

President Yeltsin: No, he is not. Basically, no. We are not holding him under guard. That is for President Gorbachev to decide. My orders were for Yazov, Pavlov, and Kryuchkov only. ~~(S)~~

President Bush: Goodbye and congratulations. (U)

President Yeltsin: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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