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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

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

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Boris Yeltsin, President of Russian Republic
Interpreter: Peter Afansenko
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff

DATE, TIME: September 25, 1991, 7:47 - 7:57 a.m.
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Boris, President Yeltsin. This is George Bush. How are you, sir? (U)

President Yeltsin: Hello, Mr. President. It is nice to hear your voice. (U)

The President: This is a personal call, it is entirely personal. (U)

President Yeltsin: I understand. (U)

The President: I have been reading in the papers that you may require some medical attention. I would like to offer you the best hospital facilities in Washington D.C. if that would have any appeal to you. And if there is anything that is required, consultations, heart specialists, we could call in the best people in the U.S. I think we have the best treatment in the world here. This offer comes from my heart and, I am sure, the hearts of the American people. (S)

President Yeltsin: Mr. President, thank you. I am very grateful. Thank you for your personal attention to me. I don't know how to find the words to thank you. We had a tough mission to Nagorno-Karabakh but we brought the two sides to the table and signed a protocol. I am taking a rest of ten days. The doctors are looking me over and I am under observation. If things don't get better, perhaps I could take you up on your offer after consulting with my doctors. (S)

The President: No problem. I wish you well. I hope the rest will take care of it. But if our specialists can do anything, please be our guest at Walter Reed or Bethesda or any other institution in the U.S. It is important for us that you remain in good health. On a very personal basis, I want to make sure that you have the very best care. (S)

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President Yeltsin: Mr. President, I don't know how to thank you. I am touched and never expected to hear this human touch and response from you. I want to thank you very much. Mr. President, I will, of course, accept your offer if it becomes necessary. (S)

I want you to know that Gorbachev and I are working decisively on reform and democratization and in a very friendly fashion. We call each other nearly every day. We are working very closely together. (S)

The President: That is very good. It has been nice talking to you. Maybe I will just say that we had a friendly call and leave out the substance. (S)

President Yeltsin: We will say we talked about the situation in general but it is best not to talk about the substance. We should leave it out so not to worry people too much. (S)

The President: Okay. That is the way we will handle it. (S)

President Yeltsin: Thank you from the bottom of my heart. (U)

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