

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Boris Yeltsin
Interpreter: Dmitri Zarechnak
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: September 10, 1992; 8:01 - 8:15am
Oval Office

The President: Hello, Boris. How are you? It is good to hear from you. (U)

President Yeltsin: George, good morning. I am very happy to hear your voice but I know that you are busy and having a tough time. (U)

The President: Yes, this is a tough campaign. I think we'll be all right. It's a tough fight and we are still behind. (S)

President Yeltsin: There is one thing I can help you with, Mr. President. We have found new material on KAL 007. I know that sixty percent of the passengers were American. I am prepared to give you all the materials we have found. Perhaps one possibility is if some family members could come over and meet with me and discuss this. They could bring the materials back to you, including the Black Box. (S)

The President: That would be very good. Let us talk, I will talk with General Scowcroft, and get back to you. (S)

President Yeltsin: Very good. (U)

Well, the latest news is that yesterday I postponed my visit to Japan and Korea. We sort of had a deadlock on the Kuriles. Public opinion in Japan was excited and passions were high in Russia too. We are not in a position to transfer the islands and there is no possibility for compromise now. So, I thought it useless to go there now. I need time, a couple of months, for passions to cool and then perhaps we can reschedule. (S)

I talked to Miyazawa yesterday and to Roh Tae Woo. They are not happy and I am not either. But here in Moscow I spoke with government leaders, the Supreme Soviet, and the Security Council and all of us arrived at the same conclusion. (S)

Now, on another point, I sent the two naval vessels to the Gulf. (S)

The President: I saw that. I think it is a wonderful statement of solidarity and a symbol that Russia and the U.S. are equally concerned. Thank you. (S)

On that first subject, I certainly understand your position. If we can ever be helpful with Miyazawa, we will try. Given the passions, I think people will understand the delay. (S)

President Yeltsin: Well, if you could find a calm way to talk to Miyazawa and to let him know that passions are high here, it would help. Roh seems to understand my position. But given the passions, a compromise is not possible now. If I were to agree to anything, there wouldn't be a chance for me in Moscow. I think you understand what I mean. (S)

The President: Boris, we will do what we can with the Japanese. (S)

President Yeltsin: Thank you. (U)

The President: Boris, let me ask you a personal question. How is your mother doing? (S)

President Yeltsin: Thank you, George, for the very swift response. Thank you for sending your personal physician and the chief heart surgeon of the Navy. They were valuable and their advice was helpful. They thought our treatment was good. She is partly recovered. She can walk now. With God's help, she will recover. Thanks for your human sympathy. (S)

The President: I am delighted to hear that. It was good talking to you. After the election, I hope we can visit and talk. Jim Baker, who just walked in, and General Scowcroft send their best wishes. (S)

President Yeltsin: Thank you, George. Give my best to Jim Baker and Brent Scowcroft. Let me say a few more words. We are proceeding with economic reform and democratic changes are on schedule. We are not abandoning them in any way. We will have a good harvest, better than last year. I believe the biggest difficulties are behind us. We are not expecting any eruption of popular anger. (S)

Please convey best wishes to Barbara from Naina and me. I extend my hand to you. Although I have been an atheist all my life, I am directing prayers to God for your re-election. (S)

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The President: Boris, that was a generous offer on the Hurricane. I don't think we will need to take you up on your offer. We have a massive effort there. But the very fact you offered it means a great deal to me and everyone else. (C)

President Yeltsin: Well, I think we must help each other whenever calamities occur. It was pleasant talking to you. (C)

The President: Good luck, sir. (U)

President Yeltsin: Thank you. Goodbye, George. Best of luck to you. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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