

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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His Excellency
William J. CLINTON,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Marvin Russell, Senior
Reviewer

Dear Bill,

Thank you for the letter where you have frankly laied out the US considerations in furtherance of our Tokyo discussions about the means to address the urgent task of ensuring the non-nuclear status of Ukraine. To resolve this problem becomes increasingly imperative, inter alia from the point of view of the long term interests of our two countries and the prospects for international stability as a whole.

Unfortunately, both official statements and practical steps taken by the Ukrainian side confirm our worst fears concerning the nuclear drift of the Ukrainian leadership. This can result in a serious derangement of the process of nuclear disarmament and universal efforts aimed at strengthening the regime of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

You and us are of completely identical view regarding the essence of the problem. Ukraine should without any reservations or conditions abide by her commitments stemming from the Lisbon Protocol, i.e. she should ratify the START-1 Treaty and join the Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons as a non-nuclear state. Thus, there is no room for compromise in this matter of basic significance. In this respect, upgrading coordination of steps between you and us becomes even more important.

For all practical purposes, we have completed the study of the US considerations having to do with the tripartite statement on "de-activation", or dismantlement of strategic forces warheads, located at the territory of Ukraine, and utilization of the released nuclear materials. We intend to transmit very promptly our version of such a document to the US side.

I have instructed to hold consultations with US representatives in order to coordinate our positions prior to the tripartite meeting in London of S.Talbott and G.Mamedov with the Ukrainian deputy foreign minister.

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I'd like to stress, that we have every reason to count on success, but only if we can approach Kiev with a coordinated unified position. Otherwise, only counterproductive results can be achieved. You and us have no stake in giving Ukraine any chance to entertain even smallest nuances in stances taken by the US and Russia.

I sincerely hope that there will be subsequent development and expansion of our interaction with you in the spirit of trust and partnership.

Sincerely,

B. YELTSIN

August 16, 1993

MOSCOW

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