Case Number: 2006-0459-F

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Folder Title:
Helsinki-Unused Radio Address 3/22/97

Staff Office-Individual:
Speechwriting-Blinken

Original OA/ID Number:
3388

Row: 48  Section: 6  Shelf: 1  Position: 3  Stack: V
3/21/97 10 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION
MARCH 22, 1997
Good morning. I am speaking to you from Air Force One, on my way home from a successful summit meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Helsinki. My voice may be little hard to hear over the sound of our engines, but I wanted to report the results of this summit to you as soon as I could because they are important to the future of every American.

A strong U.S.-Russia relationship lies at the heart of some of the greatest opportunities before us as we enter the 21st century. Working together, our two countries can help build a democratic, undivided Europe at peace for the first time in history...
We can continue to lead the world away from the nuclear threat. And we can forge new ties of trade and investment that will benefit all our people. This week, President Yeltsin and I made real progress in meeting each of these challenges.

In this century, Europe has suffered through two world wars and the Cold War -- and America has paid a heavy price for those divisions. Three years ago, I laid out a vision for what Europe can be in the 21st century -- an undivided continent where democracy and free markets know no boundaries, but where nations know that their borders will be secure and their independence respected.
That kind of Europe will be good for its people -- and good for America.

To succeed, Europe must be secure. For fifty years, NATO secured Europe’s West. Now, it can do the same for Europe’s East. That is why the United States has led the way in adapting NATO to new missions, opening its doors to new democracies, strengthening its ties to non-members through the Partnership for Peace, and seeking to forge a strong, productive relationship between NATO and Russia.
Until this summit, some people believed it would be impossible to enlarge NATO on the one hand, while maintaining and even strengthening our relationship with Russia on the other. But while President Yeltsin and I have agreed to disagree about enlargement, we agreed that the relationship between the U.S. and Russia and the benefits to all of cooperation between NATO and Russia are too important to be jeopardized.

As a result, I reaffirmed to President Yeltsin that enlargement will proceed as scheduled, with the first new members invited to join the Alliance at a special Summit in Madrid this summer.
But at the same time, we agreed that NATO and Russia should move forward quickly to complete negotiations on a NATO-Russia document. Our goal will be to create a forum for regular consultations and joint action -- much as our troops are acting together today in Bosnia. I am convinced that Russia can become a real partner with NATO in making Europe’s future peaceful and secure -- and now we are on the right track.
As the world’s two largest nuclear powers, the United States and Russia also have a special responsibility to lead in reducing the danger of nuclear weapons. In Helsinki, we made good on that responsibility by taking three major steps forward.

First, President Yeltsin agreed to seek promptly the Duma’s ratification of the START II strategic weapons reduction treaty.

Second, both of us agreed we should not stop with START II. As soon as the Duma ratifies that treaty, we will begin to negotiate even more cuts under a START III.
In fact, President Yeltsin and I set guidelines for START III negotiations, limiting to between 2,000 and 2,500 the number of nuclear warheads our countries would retain. And we agreed that the reductions under both START II and START III should be completed by the year 2007.

Think about what that means. If we make good on this agreement, a decade from now we will have cut each of our nuclear arsenals by 80% from their Cold War height.

Third, after more than three years of difficult negotiations, President Yeltsin and I agreed on a way to preserve the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
Distinguishing between ballistic missile systems restricted by the ABM treaty and short range theater missile defenses that are not restricted had proved very difficult. But now, we have found a way to preserve the ABM treaty -- a cornerstone of our work to control nuclear weapons -- while giving each of us the ability to develop defenses against theater missiles, which pose a growing threat to our troops.

Finally, President Yeltsin and I agreed on steps each of us will take to help Russia complete its remarkable transformation to a market economy -- and help our people in the process.
President Yeltsin understands that for the Russian economy to grow strong -- and for the Russian people to share in greater prosperity -- it must attract more trade and investment. To improve the investment climate and stimulate growth, he has set out a bold agenda, including comprehensive tax reform, new energy laws and tough anti-crime legislation.
As the investment climate in Russia improves, I want American companies to be able to take advantage of new opportunities. So through government agencies that specialize in loans and loan guaranties for Americans who want to do business abroad, we will free up funds to finance billions of dollars in new investments in Russia. As trade and investment flow, jobs and prosperity will grow in both our countries.
In Helsinki, President Yeltsin and I demonstrated that the U.S.-Russian relationship is no longer a zero sum game. Each of the concrete agreements we reached is a “win” for all our people. We won’t always agree -- and there is much work yet to be done. But we are building a strong partnership between our countries for the 21st century -- and the stronger it gets, the safer, more secure and more prosperous our common future will be.

From Air Force One, this is President Clinton. Thanks for listening.