Bush, Yeltsin Sign Accords

SUMMIT MAKES HISTORY, US AND RUSSIA PARTNERS

The world changed for the better yesterday as President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed history-making accords. "We've indeed formed a truly new relationship," President Bush proclaimed after the signing ceremony.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Yeltsin, Bush emphasized, "The collapse of the U.S.S.R. and the emergence of a democratic Russia provides us with the greatest opportunity in our lifetime to win the permanent democratic peace that has eluded us through two world wars and the long Cold War that followed."

The accord includes the precedent-shattering joint understanding that will achieve drastic reductions in nuclear warheads by the year 2003. Another agreement will make it easier for United States businesses to invest in Russia.

"It is now within our power," President Bush said, "to alter forever our relationship so that it becomes the greatest force for world peace, a democratic peace, that the world has ever known. Let that be our vision for the future." (6/18)

President Bush knows we must remain strong. We still have the weapons needed to repel any foe, but our most dangerous enemy has become a friend.

- The accord has two phases. By 1999, the United States is scheduled to have 4,250 strategic warheads. Russia will have 3,800. Four years later, the U.S. will pare down its warheads to 3,500 while Russia reduces its nuclear warheads to 3,000.
- The agreement calls for sharp reductions of 1,870 U.S. land-based missiles; 8,695 land-based Russian missiles. The threat of nuclear annihilation is becoming a thing of the past.

A new era of cooperation is dawning between the United States and Russia. Now, our children can sleep more soundly thanks to President Bush.

- President Bush is absolutely committed to learning the whereabouts of any American POWs sent to the Soviet Union. He has ordered former ambassador to the Soviet Union, Malcolm Toyn, the U.S. Co-chairman of the Russian-U.S. Commission on POWs, to "return immediately to Moscow to work on this issue."
- Russia and the United States will work out an agreement to protect against limited nuclear attack by sharing warning data on missile launches.
KENNEDY/DUKAKIS ADVISOR SIGNS WITH CLINTON  Bill Clinton has hired Nancy E. Soderberg, the foreign policy advisor to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, to be his campaign's director of foreign policy, according to The Boston Globe. Soderberg was a foreign policy adviser to Democrat Michael Dukakis' campaign four years ago. Soderberg said yesterday that she will work from Clinton's headquarters in Little Rock, and her job will include coordinating foreign policy issues for the candidate. (The Boston Globe, 6/17)

EDITORIALS

SENIOR CITIZENS BEWARE  "Senior citizens take warning! Be wary of Bill Clinton and Ross Perot. They've got their greedy eyes on your Social Security benefits.... No matter what the candidates say, they are proposing tax increases for a specific segment of our society.... This is nothing short of class warfare against people who have spent most of their lives in pursuit of financial success and security... and it would be an out and out ripoff of the Social Security taxes those individuals have paid for a lifetime with a government promise of benefits when they retire.... The injustice is clear. It is nothing more or less than robbery." Ralph Looney, former editor Rocky Mountain News, Albuquerque Tribune (Washington Times, 6/17)

VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE HITS POLITICAL DYNAMITE  "How about the obvious conclusion that we have a moral crisis in this country? We are raising so many children without parents, without communities, without religion and without socially enforced standards of behavior that any excuse for a riot will do.... Our elites are so sophisticated that they are stumped by ordinary questions of right and wrong.... That's why Vice President Dan Quayle has hit upon political dynamite with broad majorities of the American people, because he is telling the truth," Mona Charen, syndicated columnist (Washington Times, 6/17)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

CLINTON OVEREXPOSED  "... Eyes begin to glaze over when [Bill Clinton] appears on still another talk show to reel off still more political minutiae. His may be the earliest case of overexposure in the annals of presidential contests. Even now the sound of his voice is enough to switch television channels across the country." Paul Greenberg, Arkansas Democrat Gazette (Washington Times, 6/17)

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