

Campaign Briefing

Issue 91 • Wednesday June 17, 1992

BUSH

 QUAYLE
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TODAY: BILL CLINTON SAYS HE WOULD PUT MARIO CUOMO ON THE SUPREME COURT

HEADLINES

- Arms control agreement signed (Pg.1)
- Productivity up 2.7 percent in first quarter, the largest increase in 2 years. See page 2 for other economic news.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

President Bush meets with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin; participates in signing ceremony with Yeltsin; holds news conference; attends dinner at Russian Embassy.

Vice President Quayle attends joint session of Congress with Yeltsin; attends signing ceremony with Presidents Bush and Yeltsin; attends dinner at Russian Embassy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE BEST DEAL IN THE HISTORY OF ARMS CONTROL *"We are talking about a very good deal,"* Jack Mendelsohn, deputy director of the Arms Control Association said regarding the historic arms control agreement reached by President Bush and Russian President Yeltsin. *"On paper, it looks like the two forces will be reduced equally, (oon't, pg. 2)*

STUNNING AGREEMENT REACHED TO SLASH NUCLEAR ARSENALS

News organizations are calling Tuesday's nuclear weapons agreement between President Bush and Russian President Yeltsin *"the most significant arms control agreement ever reached"* and *"the deal of the century."*

"The threat of a nuclear nightmare is more distant now than at any time since the dawn of the nuclear era," Bush said Tuesday in announcing that the United States and Russia have agreed to slash their long-range nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

The momentous agreement came on the opening day of Bush's first post-Cold War summit with Yeltsin.

Russia and the United States — adversaries turned allies with the fall of Soviet communism — agreed to reduce their long-range nuclear weapons to no more than 3,500 warheads each by the year 2003.

The cuts go far beyond earlier limitations of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

"These are remarkable steps for our two countries," Bush said. *"Our hope is that this partnership will end forever the old antagonisms that kept our people apart, that kept the world in confrontation and conflict."* [3/17]

TODAY'S TALKING POINTS

BUSH-YELTSIN SUMMIT: BUILDING A SAFER WORLD

After nearly a decade of intense negotiations, the United States and Russia agreed to a historic, unprecedented reduction in nuclear arms — an agreement surpassing all expectations. All Americans will benefit from President Bush's leadership on arms control.

The promotion of democracy and freedom in Russia and the other commonwealth states is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. President Bush firmly believes that the United States, having spent \$12.4 trillion fighting the Cold War, should take the lead by investing in winning the peace.

- President Bush knows we must maintain a strong defense because the world is still a dangerous place due to regional conflicts and the threat of terrorism. Because we no longer must defend ourselves against the superpower that was the USSR, we can now dedicate our resources to solving our domestic problems.

- The Bush-Yeltsin summit is based on building a shared commitment to democracy and freedom — in marked contrast to U.S.-Soviet summits based on containing ideological competition and a balance of terror.

President Bush regards Russian President Yeltsin as a partner in building a safer world. He believes Yeltsin has taken courageous and significant steps toward democracy and a free market.

At the summit, President Bush and President Yeltsin are discussing the full range of political, economic and security issues that will impact United States relations with Russia.

- No longer enemies, the United States and Russia stand together as allies who defeated Soviet communism and in Desert Storm stopped aggression in the Middle East. President Bush is firmly committed to bring lasting democracy and peace to Russia.

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(Russia, con't) but in fact the Russians will be giving up the backbone of their arsenal - land-based multiple warhead missiles - while we will be retaining the area of our greatest strength, sea-based ballistic missiles."

The agreement removes Russia's most dangerous weapons, "the ones most likely to lead to a pre-emptive strike," said James T. Bush, associate director of the Center for Defense Information.

"I commend the President," said Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-DE). "By focusing on eliminating as many nuclear weapons as possible in the former Soviet Union, and as fast as possible, the President has struck what may be the best deal in the history of arms control." (New York Times, 6/17)

PEROT NEARLY NUKES GM EMPLOYEES

Ross Perot's 1986 threat to "nuke" General Motors by shutting down its computer system and crippling auto production was the equivalent of telling Michigan workers to drop dead, according to Michigan GOP Chairman David J. Doyle. "The facts are simple: Ross Perot was willing to shut down GM production and the entire Michigan economy just so he and his business cronies could make more billions," said Doyle. "[Perot] doesn't care about our jobs and our families. The only thing he does care about is his bottom line." (6/15)

DEMS KEEP SPENDING AND SPENDING Leading opponents of the Balanced Budget Amendment also sponsor the most costly legislation. Of the top 100 spenders, 96 are Democrats, according to the National Taxpayers Union Federation. Not surprisingly, 88 percent of these credit-happy Democrats voted against the Balanced Budget Amendment. Indeed, half of the Democratic co-sponsors of the Balanced Budget Amendment bill, who switched their votes at the last minute, appear on the big spender list sponsoring bills costing approximately \$700 million. (Wall Street Journal, 6/15, New York Times, 6/13)

BUSH SENDS FORMER AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA TO INVESTIGATE MIA ISSUE President Bush announced Tuesday that Malcolm Toon, a former Ambassador to the Soviet Union, will go to Moscow immediately to work with Col. Gen. Dmitri A. Volkogonov to determine whether captured American servicemen in Vietnam were transferred to the former Soviet Union. Toon currently heads the United States contingent on a joint commission investigating the whereabouts of missing American's. (6/17)

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ECONOMY WATCH

HOUSING STARTS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION UP IN MAY The government reports an 11 percent jump in housing starts for the month of May. Also reporting May figures, the Federal Reserve Board sights a 0.6 percent increase in industrial production, the largest increase since July, 1991.

"The strong rebound in housing starts... demonstrates continued strength in this basic sector," Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said. He added, "The improvement in industrial production for the fourth straight month points to a more upbeat business climate, which should lead to increased hiring and personal income gains." (The Wall Street Journal, 6/17)

EDITORIALS

HURRAY FOR QUAYLE'S CRUSADE "Hurrray for Vice President Dan Quayle and his crusade for morality in America. Hallelujah for the 15,000 Southern Baptists delegates who stood to cheer the vice president when he declared he wears the scorn of the media elite as a badge of honor....Do the American people want a libertine culture such as that which swept ancient civilizations to destruction?...Do they want their schools to teach a permissive immorality that says anything goes in modern culture? No, indeed. Throughout the land, the vast majority of the people agree with Quayle." (Indianapolis Star, 6/16)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

BUSH, WORLD LEADER "What people have to realize is that you're not running for Town Manager of America. You're running to be President of the United States, Commander in Chief, the most important post in the free world, and that takes a certain amount of responsibility. From a political standpoint, when you look at data, George Bush has literally a 40 or 50 point advantage over Ross Perot and Bill Clinton in best being able to handle foreign affairs....When voters decide who will command this country's future, you'll see the salience of the foreign policy issue take over." Republican Pollster Bill McInturff (Fox Morning News, 6/17)

NO PRAYER MEETINGS FOR PEROT "I go to church, but I'm not one of these guys who opens a meeting with a prayer. When I run into a guy like that, I just button my wallet, because he's gonna pick it for the lord." Ross Perot (TV Guide, 6/20)

THE CUOMO COURT? "Gov. Cuomo would be a good Supreme Court justice." Bill Clinton (MTV, 6/16)

For draft new releases, new conference statements, letters to the editor, op-eds, and talking points, please call the State Press Operations Desk @ (202) 336-7294.

PRODUCED BY: Bush/Quayle '92, Communications Division
1030 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 (202) 336-7155