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Background: The Russians told us that, while they do not plan to abrogate the CFE Treaty, they intend to seek solutions to the flanks issue by stretching Treaty interpretations of flexibility. However, Russia has not yet provided any specific examples of this. To prepare for fall round of the Joint Consultative Group in Vienna, the High Level Task Force is preparing a NATO paper on the flexibility available in the CFE Treaty to alleviate Russian/Ukrainian flank concerns. The paper discusses which proposals would be acceptable to the alliance so that allies will be ready to respond to the Russians/Ukrainians on this issue.

**Talking Points:**

- o Our basic tenets for resolving the flanks issue have not changed. Any resolution must ensure undiminished security for all CFE states, preserve the integrity of the CFE Treaty, and be acceptable to all parties.
- o We were pleased with the discussion at the September 8th HLTF meeting on the flexibility within the CFE Treaty vis-a-vis the flanks. We hope the alliance paper on the flexibility in the CFE Treaty will be finalized at the October 12th meeting. However, the Russians still need to solve their problem. The alliance should not bring solutions to the Russians.
- o We have also been pleased with the Quad meetings prior to the HLTF meetings. We urge these Quad meetings to continue among our MOD and MPA representatives working the flanks issue.

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**BW/CW:**

Background: Based on [REDACTED] Russian actions in both bilateral and multilateral fora, we believe that senior elements of the Russian military and civilian establishment remain committed to continuing offensive BW activities, despite Yeltsin's private and public statements to the contrary. The Russians were not prepared to hold the second Trilateral BW Experts meeting tentatively scheduled for early September; they had promised a comprehensive briefing on their past offensive activities comparable to the very detailed U.S. and UK briefings at the April experts meeting in London. The meeting will take place sometime after the Summit. On CW, some implementation activities are continuing under the Wyoming MOU, but the Russians to date have refused to address seriously U.S. concerns with their incomplete and disingenuous data submission and other implementation issues.

Talking points:

- We continue to have very serious concerns regarding Russian activities in the area of offensive BW.
- We also are encountering difficulties in implementing our bilateral CW agreements, specifically in the safe and effective execution of CW inspections under the Wyoming MOU and in obtaining credible Russian data on their CW stockpile and facilities.
- We expect both these issues will be raised during the Summit.
- Absent a significant Russian turnaround on these issues, we will face great difficulty in recertifying Russian eligibility for Nunn-Lugar and other assistance.

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**Russia and ABM/TMD**

**Background:** The U.S. is considering its response to the Russian counter-proposal on ABM/TMD demarcation, but a decision may not be available prior to the Quad meeting. Since the U.S. has discussed TMD cooperation with UK, France, and Germany, it would be useful to inform them (in advance of the Summit statement) of U.S.-Russian agreement to conduct a joint exercise of TMD units and early warning procedures.

**Talking points:**

- We are continuing to discuss ABM/TMD demarcation issues with other participants in the Standing Consultative Commission -- Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.
- We are working on a response to Russia's counterproposal tabled at the SCC last month.
- We also are beginning to plan for a joint U.S.-Russian TMD exercise. The details and scope of the exercise remain to be fleshed out.

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