

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for Bulgaria

January 29, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

On June 3, 1993, I determined and reported to the Congress that Bulgaria is in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action allowed for the continuation of most-favored-nation (MFN) status for Bulgaria and certain other activities without the requirement of a waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning emigra-

tion laws and policies of the Republic of Bulgaria. You will find that the report indicates continued Bulgarian compliance with U.S. and international standards in the area of emigration policy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
January 29, 1996.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters

January 30, 1996

Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission

The President. Let me say that we are delighted to have Prime Minister Chernomyrdin here. He and the Vice President have had very good meetings, and the relationship that they have established and the work they have done I think has played a major role in the continued strengthening of our partnership with Russia. And I'm very pleased at the progress of this meeting, and I'm very pleased again to have him here in the United States.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. Thank you, Mr. President. We have just held the sixth session of the commission, so we made some significant progress. And I believe that it is due to the organization of your side that it was possible to have some results. Perhaps for the lack of time, we don't have as many results as we could have. Well, I think that this is due to the Vice President, Mr. Gore, that we have this success.

The President. He thought it was due to you.

Russia

Q. President Clinton, are you concerned and are you going to speak about some of the anti-reform forces that seem to be operating in the former Soviet Union?

The President. Well, we're going to have a discussion about where things are in Russia on a number of issues, but I personally am convinced, by the assurances that I received from President Yeltsin on our telephone call last week and the record that the Prime Minister himself has established, that Russia is firmly moving forward on reform. And I believe that Russia will receive the support of the International Monetary Fund and the other international institutions as well as the United States and other allies. I think we'll keep moving in this direction.

They had a good year in 1995: They had inflation down; production was stable; the ruble was stronger. I think that they're seeing some real economic growth there, and it's a record they can be proud of.

Chechnya

Q. What about Chechnya? Are you going to discuss that, and do you have continuing questions about it?

The President. I talked to President Yeltsin about that last week, but we'll have a few words about it.

Welfare Reform

Q. Do you plan to veto a Senate version of the welfare bill, the next welfare bill? There's