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Ambassador Yuri Ushakov and U.S.-Russia Trade Relations

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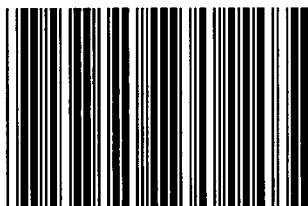
April-2000

Talking Points re: Ambassador Yuri Ushakov and US-Russia Trade Relations

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TALKING POINTS:

- First I would like to thank **Dr. Palmieri** for her warm welcome and for all the good work the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce has done since 1993 to further trade and investment in Russia. This is a major priority for both countries. I am proud to have been on the Advisory Council since that time. The Chamber benefits both the US and Russia and I hope we continue working together and building a strong trade relationship.
- US-Russia relations. The recent democratic elections that elected Mr. Putin by a clear majority and the successful visit by Foreign Minister Ivanov demonstrate that we are at a critical juncture in US-Russia relations.
- Just two weeks ago, US and Russian negotiators began formal START III talks in Geneva and I am pleased that the **White House has announced that President Clinton would travel to Moscow for a summit meeting with President Putin, June 4-5.**
- Russia's economy is beginning to flourish again. The "come-back kid" of the past three years, Russia' imports dropped from \$270 million in February of 98 to \$88 million in February of 99 then dramatically re-surged to \$290 million just this spring. That's a good sign.

- It's clear to me that Russians are finding more confidence in their economy, buying more, and looking for new business opportunities.
- With the economy in much better shape than it has been throughout the decade, I believe this is our "moment of opportunity" to work with our Russian counterparts to help them join the World Trade Organization.
- With a new government that has demonstrated initiative in the field of security -- such as the positive Duma action taken on the SALT and Test Ban treaties, this would be a good time to do something parallel in the economy.
- Strong steps toward accession will allow President Putin's government to leave its imprint on trade policy. And I would suggest that the Clinton Administration do everything in its power to get this relationship off on the right footing.

- As you know I've been keenly involved in China's accession to the WTO. I've also supported Taiwan and Vietnam's and now urge Russia to step up its efforts for the following three reasons:
 - (1) Rule of law;
 - (2) Better integration into the community of nations; and
 - (3) Supports economic growth and domestic stability.
- It just makes sense. This year Russia will set records in its exports to the US and the US will continue to grow steadily in its investment in Russia. We must seize the moment to make the most of this opportunity. I will lend my full support to this endeavor.
- Finally, I would like to offer a warm welcome to Ambassador Ushakov. I will introduce him in a moment but would first like to welcome him not only to Washington, but also someday to my home state of Montana.
- Did you know that Russia is the second largest importer of US beef and pork? That's something my cattle ranchers would love to promote if you visit the Big Sky State, Mr. Ambassador!

- Many of you, including myself has the pleasure of working with **Ambassador Vorontsov**. Today, I am pleased to welcome and introduce **Ambassador Yuri Ushakov**. Ambassador Ushakov –

INTRODUCTION – Ambassador Yuri Ushakov began his term as Russian Ambassador to the US in February of 1999.

Prior to this appointment, he served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in charge of the United National - legal, humanitarian affairs, human rights, linguistic services and archives.

From 1996-1998, he was Ambassador to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe and has held a variety of posts where he has handled European affairs for the Russian Federation.

A Moscow native, he is currently Chairman of the Russian Advisory Council of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce and a guest of honor today.

Please join me in welcoming, Ambassador Ushakov and thanking him for all his work in bringing our two countries together.