

SLAVIC, BALTIC &
EURASIAN ARCHIVE

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RUS CAUC - TEXT OF YELTSIN'S ADDRESS ON CHECHNYA

MOSCOW, DEC 11 (REUTER) - THE FOLLOWING IS AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY ITAR-TASS NEWS AGENCY OF THE FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON SUNDAY AFTER RUSSIAN TROOPS WERE SENT TO THE REBEL REGION OF CHECHNYA.

"DEAR CITIZENS

"TODAY, ON DECEMBER 11, 1994, UNITS OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND THE DEFENCE MINISTRY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION MOVED INTO THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC. THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE THREAT TO THE INTEGRITY OF RUSSIA, TO THE SAFETY OF ITS CITIZENS BOTH IN CHECHNYA AND BEYOND ITS BORDERS, AND BY THE POSSIBILITY OF DESTABILISING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.

"OUR GOAL IS TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IN ONE OF THE SUBJECTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION -- THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC -- AND TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS FROM ARMED EXTREMISM. THE HANGING DANGER OF FULL-SCALE CIVIL WAR IN CHECHNYA CARRIES A THREAT TO PEACE TALKS AND FREE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE CHECHEN PEOPLE.

"THE TALKS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF RUSSIA AND CHECHNYA HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 12. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THEM TO BE DISRUPTED.

"NORMALISING LIFE IN CHECHNYA WILL REQUIRE CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL BRANCHES OF POWER AND RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL FORCES OF RUSSIA, BALANCED AND ACCURATE ASSESSMENTS. I INTEND TO ASK THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY (PARLIAMENT) TOMORROW TO REVIEW THE FRAMEWORK TERMS OF TALKS JOINTLY.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ACCORDING TO THE SITUATION. AS PRESIDENT I WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS ARE OBSERVED. I ORDER ALL OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RESTORING CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC NOT TO USE VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS AND TO TAKE THEM UNDER PROTECTION.

"I SHOULD REMIND (YOU) THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY DECREE AN AMNESTY WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL DECEMBER 15, 1994, FOR ALL THOSE WHO WILL VOLUNTARILY LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS.

"I APPEAL TO THE CHECHENS WHO ARE CITIZENS OF RUSSIA. I AM CONFIDENT THAT SOON YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE FATE OF YOUR NATION IN PEACE. I COUNT ON YOUR WISDOM.

"SOLDIERS OF RUSSIA. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WHILE CARRYING OUT YOUR DUTY AND DEFENDING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE CALM OF ITS CITIZENS, YOU ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE RUSSIAN STATE, ITS CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.

"THE RESTORATION OF PEACE ON THE TERRITORY OF CHECHNYA IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC AND ALL RUSSIAN PEOPLE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS THE ONLY BASIS FOR SOLVING PROBLEMS WHICH LOOK INSOLUBLE TODAY."

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