

rededicating themselves to improving their communities and to ending the crime and violence that still threaten us. This has indeed been a year worthy of the Prince of Peace.

I have always believed that the Christmas spirit of giving and caring joins children and parents across the country and around the world. This year, let us listen to the dreams

of our children and gain strength from their idealism. On this holiday, let us reach out to the people around us and work for a world at peace.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all for a very merry Christmas.

BILL CLINTON

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Telephone Conversation With President Boris Yeltsin of Russia

December 22, 1993

The President telephoned Russian President Yeltsin in Moscow this morning. The two leaders spoke for 30 minutes.

The President offered his congratulations to President Yeltsin and the Russian people on the recent free and fair elections held in Russia and on the adoption of a new constitution. President Yeltsin said that he and the Russian Government intended to work well and constructively with the new Parliament.

The two leaders discussed preparations for their January meetings in Moscow, agreeing that part of the agenda would include a review of U.S.-Russian economic cooperation to date. In this connection the President reaffirmed strong

U.S. support for economic reform and democracy in Russia. President Yeltsin confirmed his intention to continue a firm course of economic reform in Russia.

The two Presidents also discussed foreign policy issues that will be on the agenda for their January meetings. They agreed on the need to continue the cooperative tripartite dialog with Ukraine, with the aim of resolving the complex set of nuclear issues. President Yeltsin affirmed that Russia had no intention of interfering in the affairs of its neighbors. The President reiterated the U.S. hope for concrete movement on the question of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia.

Nomination for Deputy Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

December 22, 1993

The President announced today that he will nominate Michael K. Kirk to be the Deputy Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks at the Department of Commerce.

"Michael Kirk has a long record of public service at the Patent and Trademark Office. I

am confident that he will do well as Deputy Commissioner."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Director of the United States Mint

December 22, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Phillip N. Diehl, until re-

cently the Chief of Staff at the Department of the Treasury, to be the Director of the U.S.