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October 05, 2006

TO: Eric Edelman

CC: Gen Pete Pace

FROM: Donald Rumsfeld

D.A.

SUBJECT: Meeting with Russian MoD Sergei Ivanov

I talked to him about our proposal for a conventional SLBM. He suggested we start talks now on how to avoid any complications. I said we have test firings all the time. We notify each other. There isn't a problem. There wouldn't be any problem with this. In fact, Russia ought to have conventionally-armed ballistic missiles for the same reason we need them.

He said their system is automatically notified when something like that happens. I said sure it is -- that happens every time we do a test. There isn't another country that has the capability of knowing what is happening, and if there is ever any doubt, the doubt is answered when the conventional warhead lands in less than 30 minutes. No one has the ability to intercept it, and no one with any sense would even think of launching a retaliatory strike or even be able to do so before the conventional warhead hit its intended target.

I need a proposal as to who should start the discussions with Russia on confidence-building measures and arrangements, hot lines, etc., so there will be no issue with them if we did decide we needed to launch a conventional SLBM.

Thanks.

DHR.dh
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Please Respond By 11/02/06



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