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RUS - TEXT OF YELTSIN'S STATEMENT ON CHECHNYA

MOSCOW, NOV 29 (NCA-B) - TEXT OF YELTSIN'S STATEMENT ON CHECHNYA:

"APPEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ARMED CONFLICT IN THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC.

BLOOD IS BEING SHED IN THE ANCIENT LAND OF THE CAUCASUS, WHICH IS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF OUR FATHERLAND.

DESPITE ALL OF THE EFFORTS OF THE FEDERAL BODIES OF STATE POWER, OF THE ELDERS WHO HOLD AUTHORITY IN THE NORTHERN CAUCASUS, AND OF THE LEADERS OF THE PEOPLES LIVING THERE, THE CALLS OF THE RUSSIAN AND WORLD PUBLIC HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING THE INTERNAL CONFLICT IN CHECHNYA. THE SCALE OF THE CONFLICT IS BROADENING; THE FIERCENESS OF THE ARMED CLASHES IS INCREASING. THE CONFRONTING SIDES ARE ATTRACTING MERCENARIES TO TAKE PART IN THE ARMED ACTIONS, INCLUDING MERCENARIES FROM FOREIGN STATES.

THROUGH THE FAULT OF IRRESPONSIBLE POLITICIANS, DUE TO THEIR SELF-SEEKING INTERESTS AND INSATIABLE AMBITIONS, ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE PERISHING. THE NUMBER OF ORPHANS IS MULTIPLYING. THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF CITIZENS ARE BEING TRAMPLED. THOUSANDS OF HAPLESS PEOPLE ARE BEING TURNED INTO REFUGEES, ARE BEING DEPRIVED OF A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS, AND ARE BEING FORCED TO LEAVE THE GRAVES OF THEIR ANCESTORS. GRIEF, SUFFERING, FEAR IN THE FACE OF EXCESSIVE CRIMES, AND UNBRIDLED BANDITRY ARE POISONING THE LIFE OF THE CHECHEN PEOPLE AND THEIR NEIGHBORS.

THE HOPE OF AN INDEPENDENT SOLUTION TO THE INTERNAL CHECHEN CONFLICT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED. THE SITUATION IS ACQUIRING A NATURE THAT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR STABILITY AND PEACE IN OUR SOCIETY AND FOR THE VITALLY IMPORTANT INTERESTS AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF RUSSIA.

THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHECHNYA'S FATE, FOR THE LIFE AND HEALTH OF ALL ITS CITIZENS, LIES WITH ME, THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA. EXPRESSING THE WILL OF OUR MULTINATIONAL PEOPLE, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POWERS VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, BY ARTICLE 7 OF THE LAW "ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY." I APPEAL TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ARMED CONFRONTATION IN THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC WITH A WARNING AND A DEMAND THAT, FROM THE MOMENT OF MY APPEAL, THEY HAVE 48 HOURS TO DECLARE A CEASE-FIRE, LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS, DISBAND ALL ARMED FORMATIONS, AND RELEASE ALL THE CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED AND ARE BEING DETAINED BY FORCE.

IF THIS DEMAND IS NOT MET BY THE SET DEADLINE, A STATE OF EMERGENCY WILL BE INTRODUCED ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC, AND ALL THE FORCES AND MEANS AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE STATE WILL BE USED TO PUT A STOP TO THE BLOODSHED, TO PROTECT THE LIFE, RIGHTS, AND FREEDOMS OF RUSSIAN CITIZENS, AND TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL LEGALITY, LAW AND ORDER, AND PEACE IN THE CHECHEN REPUBLIC."

SIGNED: B. YELTSIN, PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(ITAR-TASS IN RUS-B,0410) RL