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To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy of Sciences Study on Social & Behavioral Science and Improving Intelligence for National Security" <baruch@cmu.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

**Subject: The Russian Relationship chapter: Prototyping NIC special studies**

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

On March 10, 1992, a front page story in The New York Times, by Thomas Friedman, carried the headline: "Nixon Scoffs at Level of Support for Russian Democracy by Bush." "One of the things that is absolutely essential," Nixon had written in a private, widely-circulated memo, was "that we not consider Russia to be a defeated enemy." <1>

I think it would be worthwhile for the National Academy to recommend a fresh and serious look at US-Russian relations and America's long-term interests. Your chapter could outline, as a prototype, the dimensions of relationships and new measures that social scientists now recommend (memorandum # 49 on December 1, 2009 - a reference copy is on the [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net) Website).

Historically, there have been different action moods in different areas of American foreign policy - currently, for example, a growing focus on China. But it is difficult to escape Nixon's concern that there is some deeper desire, especially in the political Right, to consign Russia to perpetual oblivion. If the National Intelligence Council takes a fresh look at areas of relationship-development and mutual interest, I think it would be possible for American policy (from the era of George W. Bush) to become more rational, beyond Secretary Clinton's "Reset" button gift to the President of Russia.

Russia, it is worth recalling, still has enough nuclear weapons and delivery systems to destroy America several times over, and much of the life on the planet. It has scientists who are as capable as any scientists in the world. There are progressive values from the Communist era (e.g., the more egalitarian treatment of women) to admire. It has serious internal problems, but if it can solve them, it has an extraordinary potential to provide constructive global leadership and economic

opportunities.<2>

Lloyd Etheredge

<1> The memorandum is included in Bernard Kalb, The Nixon Memo: Political Respectability, Russia, and the Press (U. of Chicago Press, 1994).

<2> For example, average male life expectancy has fallen to about 61.8 years for males, 11 years below the US and Western Europe. The symptoms suggest widespread anomie and societal erosion since the fall of Communism; a constructive and solicitous relationship with America could be helpful at several levels.

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