

No simple summation for Clinton's Russia policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Summed up in a bumper sticker, President Clinton's Russia policy would wrap all the way around the car. And then some.

There is no shorthand for the formula he's taking to Moscow next week.

Nor is there a simple summation of his message to the Eastern European nations now seeking to join the Western defense alliance created when they were the threat, not prospective partners.

In the complexities of a world transformed, with old enmities gone, but old suspicions persistent, Clinton's first presidential journey to Europe will be an exercise in balancing the aims and anxieties of West and East.

"We're in a period of transition now and I think the trick will be not to forget the lessons of the past, but not to be impris-

oned by them," he said Wednesday.

Clinton said he wants to reach out to Central and Eastern Europe, to the market democracies that supplanted Communist regimes, with an offer of limited partnership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It's not all these nations want, but all he thinks it wise, or even possible, to offer now.

The president said he sees that as the avenue to a united Europe, not to simply moving the old East-West line eastward, toward Russia, Ukraine and other states that once were Soviet.

Barring a delay because of the pending funeral of his mother, Virginia Kelley, Clinton was scheduled to leave Saturday evening for a 10-day, five-nation journey to Europe. He'll attend a NATO summit, then go on to Moscow to confer with Boris

Yeltsin, and on to Prague to meet with Eastern European leaders.

By the time he sees them, the alliance will have ratified his Partners for Peace policy, inviting Eastern democracies committed to open defense budgets and military cooperation to work with, but not actually within, NATO.

A NATO expanded to the borders of Russia stirs ancient fears of isolation, and so could strengthen the hand of extreme Russian nationalists, the very force that worries the leaders of bordering states.

Clinton said he had tried for a brief summary of his message to Moscow, of U.S. support for both democracy and reform.

"We were trying to think of what our bumper sticker would be about the message," he said. "I think our slogan would

be there needs to be more reform and more social service support, more attempts to build a safety net to deal with the consequences of reform, but not an attempt to slow down the reform effort."

There was laughter over the corn chowder and broiled fish as he tried "more reform, more support," and kept talking it out.

"I should have said when the bumper sticker stops," he smiled. "That would be the newest rap on me. Clinton endorses wraparound bumper stickers. Safety device for automobiles."

The policy is meant to be a safety device too, a way to accommodate three blocs — the 16 NATO allies, the old Warsaw Pact states now seeking to join them, and Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet states.

Surgeon general urges smokers to quit making children victims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Parents who smoke make children "innocent victims" of their addiction, Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders said Thursday. She urged adults to quit smoking inside their homes and cars.

Elders joined ear, nose and throat doctors in launching a new campaign to dramatize the hazards of secondhand smoke and get smoking banned in and around day care centers and schools.

Nine million children breathe secondhand smoke regularly, and at least half of all kids under 5 live in a home with at least one adult smoker, Elders and others told a news conference.

"Hundreds of thousands of children every year will suffer acute attacks of asthma ... brought on by secondhand smoke," said Dr. David R. Nielsen of Phoenix, a leader of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery campaign.

And tens of thousands of infants under 18 months are hospitalized each year with bronchitis and pneumonias "that probably could have been prevented without this exposure," said Nielsen.

The campaign was launched at a public elementary school, where children paraded in with Stop Smoking signs.

"People simply are unaware of the dangers to which they are exposing their children," said Joan Lunden, the host of "Good Morning America" and spokesperson for the campaign.

"Parents don't hesitate to keep their children out of an asbestos-filled school ... and yet they will still allow smoking in elementary schools today and in day care centers," said Lunden, daughter of a cancer surgeon.

"Secondhand smoke affects ... children for their entire lives. As adults they're twice as likely to develop lung cancer if their parents smoke," said Elders.

She said 750,000 young children are exposed

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— Dr. David R. Nielsen

to smoke in day care centers, and 83 percent of schools "still allow smoking some place on the premises."

"We as adults have a choice. But our children have no choice. So we need to get secondhand smoke out of our schools, out of our restaurants, out of our cars as parents, out of our homes. ..." said Elders. "Your children are innocent victims of your addiction."

Several children added their voices to the chorus of smoking critics at Stevens Elementary School, including 5-year-old Wesley Dorfman, a kindergartener badgering his mother to quit.

"This has really gotten to me," said Shawn Rubbin, 34, an art director and pack-a-day smoker. "Something's trying to tell me something in a big way. I need to seriously, seriously quit."

Wesley had long complained that "the smoke stinks and everything else," his mother said, but lately he's begun bringing home "specific information about what it's doing to him — or what it could do to him."

"It is doing something to me. It's making me sick. I want no one smoking around me, Mommy," Wesley chimed in. "Tell my Dad that you'll quit smoking."

"I'm going to tell him," promised Rubbin.

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