

Top Yeltsin Aide Gennady Burbulis Dies at 76

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Gennady Burbulis, Yeltsin's top associate in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Aug. 16, 2021. **AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko/TASS**

Gennady Burbulis, a close associate of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin who was one of the signatories to an agreement ending the Soviet Union, died Sunday aged 76.

Burbulis was first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federative Socialist Republic when he helped draft and signed the Belovezha Accords, which declared the end of the U.S.S.R., on Dec. 8, 1991.

Two other signatories, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Belarusian Parliament Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, died earlier this year.

Yeltsin himself died at age 76 in 2007.

Burbulis' spokesman Andrei Markov [said](#) the politician died unexpectedly in Azerbaijan.

"He was not ill, was feeling fine and had just taken part in the IX Global Baku Forum, which

discussed 'Threats to the global world order,' Markov told Interfax.

The news agency did not disclose the cause of Burbulis' death.

Born on Aug. 4, 1945, in the Urals city of Pervouralsk, Burbulis masterminded Yeltsin's successful 1990 presidential campaign.

Widely dubbed Yeltsin's "Grey Cardinal," he played a key political role in the early years of Yeltsin's first term as Russian president.

But Burbulis fell out of favor in 1993 amid criticism of the political and economic reforms he helped develop.

He was a deputy in the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, between 1993 and 1999, a deputy governor of Novgorod region in 2000-01, and a senator in the Federation Council from 2001-2007.

He leaves behind a wife, Natalia, and a son, Anton.

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