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Council: Head of State File: Records
Folder: U.S.S.R: General Secretary Gorbachev
(8790364) (1 of 3)
Box: 41

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: Executive Secretariat, National Security Council:
Head of State File

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File Folder: U.S.S.R.: General Secretary Gorbachev 8790364 (1)
Box 41

Date: 5/24/99

DOCUMENT AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
1. Letter	Reagan to Gorbachev, 2 p. <i>A 10/16/00 NLSF99-051 # 474</i>	4/10/87	P1/F1/P3/F3
2. Letter	Copy of Item #1, 2 p. <i>A 10/16/00 NLSF99-051 # 475</i>	n.d.	P1/F1/P3/F3
3. Draft Letter	Reagan to Gorbachev, 10 p.	4/9/87	P1/F1/P3/F3
4. Draft Letter	Copy of Item #3 with annotations, 10 p.	4/9/87	P1/F1/P3/F3
5. Draft Letter	Reagan to Gorbachev with annotations, 10 p. <i>R MR2000-004 # 23 10/4/00</i>	4/9/87	P1/F1/P3/F3
6. Note	re: Weinberger INF comments, 1 p.	n.d.	P1/F1/P3/F3
7. Draft Letter	Reagan to Gorbachev, 10 p.	4/9/87	P1/F1/P3/F3
8. Memo	Fritz Ermarth, Bob Linhard to Frank Carlucci, re: Letter to Gorbachev, 1 p.	4/9/87	P1/F1/P3/F3

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

~~TOP SECRET~~

RECEIVED 09 APR 87 09

TO

CARLUCCI

FROM ERMARTH

DOCDATE 09 APR 87

LINHARD

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

09 APR 87

m78
5/1/84

KEYWORDS: USSR

ARMS CONTROL

GORBACHEV, MIKHAIL S

HS

SHULTZ, G

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRES LTR TO GORBACHEV

ACTION: FOR SIGNATURE

DUE: 09 APR 87 STATUS X

FILES SII

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CARLUCCI

KRAEMER

BROOKS

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STEINER

TOBEY

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(H 1/4)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
	4/9	Powell Approved Recom		
	C 4/9	Powell Stal memo to Agencies		FWE, REC, Chron
Ermarth	3 4/9	Reopen/Recd DOD Response		
	C 4/10	Pres Sgd Ltr		FWE, REC, Chron
	4/10	ONR (DOD Response)		
DISPATCH	4/9			

W/ATTCH

FILE

(C)

3

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECORD

Log Number 90364
Date 10 APR 1987

Subject: PRES LTR

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: ☐ TOP SECRET ☐ SECRET ☒ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:	#CYS	Date	Time	Received/Signed for By:
THE VICE PRESIDENT				
THE SECRETARY OF STATE Exec. sec/Room 7241	ORIGINAL	4/10/87	6.25	N. D. King
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY Main Bldg/Room 3422				
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE The Pentagon				
DIRECTOR, ACDA Room 5933/Dept. of State				
CHAIRMAN US START DELEGATION % ACDA, 5933 State				
CHAIRMAN US INF DELEGATION % ACDA, 5933 State				
DIRECTOR, CIA Langley, VA				
CHAIRMAN, JCS The Pentagon				
DIRECTOR, OMB Room 252 OEOB				
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO UNITED NATIONS Room 6333, State Dept.				
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE 14th & Const. Ave. NW, Room 5851				
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY GA257, Forrestal Bldg.				
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DIRECTOR, OSTP Room 360, OEOB				
DIRECTOR, USIA 400 C Street, S.W., Room 800				
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR 18th & E. Street N.W., Room 6151				
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE Independence & 14th S.W., Room 200A				
UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE Room 209 Winder Bldg. 17 & F St. NW				
THE DIRECTOR, FEMA 1500 C Street, Room 828				
DIRECTOR, DMSPA Room 3E813, Pentagon				
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION 400 7th Street S.W.				
MANAGER, NATL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (NCS), Room 4125 8th & SO Courthouse Rd., Arlington, VA				
THE SECRETARY OF HHS 200 Independence Avenue, NW, Room 615F				
THE SECRETARY OF HUD 451 7th Street SW, Room 10000				
THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4181				

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 20, 1997
By dlb NARA, Date 5/24/99

National Security Council
The White House

System # II
Package # 90364
DOCLOG _____ A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	_____
Marybel Batjer	_____	_____	_____
Grant Green	_____	_____	_____
Colin Powell	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Frank Carlucci	_____	_____	_____
Grant Green	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>	<u>July 4/10</u>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Baker Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
Date 4/10/87 (Date/Time)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1987

Dear Mr. General Secretary:

It has been a long time since you and I last communicated directly. I am pleased that the visit of Secretary Shultz to Moscow offers us an opportunity to resume our direct dialogue.

I can recall at Geneva sitting before a fireplace and commenting that you and I were in a unique position. Together we can make the difference in the future course of world events. Let us pray that you and I can continue our dialogue so that the future will be one of peace and prosperity for both our nations and for the world.

I can also recall commenting to you that the very reason we are engaged in arms reductions negotiations is because of military competition that stems from the fundamental mistrust between our governments. If we are able to eliminate that distrust, arms reductions negotiations will be much easier.

There has been a recent incident that has caused problems between our two countries, and I feel strongly about this issue. At the same time, however, I am encouraged by many of the steps you are taking to modernize your own country and by the improved dialogue between us on arms reductions. There has also been some progress on human rights, although much more needs to be done. But the dialogue on regional issues has been quite fruitless so far, and I hope that we can make strenuous efforts in this area, especially on Afghanistan.

DECLASSIFIED / RELEASED

NLS F99-051 # 474

BY Amf, NARA, DATE 10/16/08

7
WHITE HOUSE ~~TOP SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

IMMEDIATE

87 APR 10 P5:54

MODE

18
SECURE FAX #

PAGES 2

DTG 102146Z Apr 87

PRIORITY

SITUATION ROOM

ADMIN FAX #

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ROUTINE

RECORD #

FROM/LOCATION

1. Paul Thompson

TO LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. Grant Green

2. _____

3. TOP 102149Z

4. BT

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

INFORMATION ADDRESSEES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. _____

2. _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

For final signature

~~Top Secret~~
CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

8
SYSTEM II
90364

MEMORANDUM FOR RHETT DAWSON

FROM: COLIN L. POWELL

SUBJECT: Letter to General Secretary Gorbachev

Attached is the hard copy of the President's letter to General Secretary Gorbachev, which has been approved by the President. A copy will be transmitted electronically. The original will be handcarried by Secretary Shultz.

Attachment

Tab A President's letter to General Secretary Gorbachev

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By dlb NARA, Date 5/24/97

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. General Secretary:

It has been a long time since you and I last communicated directly. I am pleased that the visit of Secretary Shultz to Moscow offers us an opportunity to resume our direct dialogue.

I can recall at Geneva sitting before a fireplace and commenting that you and I were in a unique position. Together we can make the difference in the future course of world events. Let us pray that you and I can continue our dialogue so that the future will be one of peace and prosperity for both our nations and for the world.

I can also recall commenting to you that the very reason we are engaged in arms reductions negotiations is because of military competition that stems from the fundamental mistrust between our governments. If we are able to eliminate that distrust, arms reductions negotiations will be much easier.

There has been a recent incident that has caused problems between our two countries, and I feel strongly about this issue. At the same time, however, I am encouraged by many of the steps you are taking to modernize your own country and by the improved dialogue between us on arms reductions. There has also been some progress on human rights, although much more needs to be done. But the dialogue on regional issues has been quite fruitless so far, and I hope that we can make strenuous efforts in this area, especially on Afghanistan.

DECLASSIFIED / RELEASED

NLS PP9-051 #475

BY Amf, NARA, DATE 10/16/00

Secretary Shultz will come to Moscow prepared to deal with a broad range of issues. He will carry with him positions that I have reviewed carefully and that are designed to improve the climate between our two countries and to build on the progress we have already made in the arms reductions area.

I look forward to positive discussions during Secretary Shultz' visit, and to a personal report from him immediately upon his return. Nancy joins me in sending very best regards to you and Raisa.

Sincerely,

R. R.

His Excellency
Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev
General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
The Kremlin
Moscow

**National Security Council
The White House**

System # _____
 Package # 96364
 DOCLOG _____ NO _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	
Marybel Batjer			
Grant Green			
Colin Powell			
Paul Thompson			
Frank Carlucci			
Grant Green			
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>		<u>down to</u>
NSC Secretariat			<u>PCO</u>
Situation Room			
	<u>URGENT</u>		

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Baker Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____ 4/9

Attached are two copies of letter to Jorlacher
 (Date/Time)
 ① final smooth w/ all changes included for
 President
 ② annotated version showing line-in line-out.
 When cleared, will inform State and send cable text.
 Bsh

Letter in smooth incorporating
all ~~a~~ changes incorporated since
distribution this morning.

15
27 13 14

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THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 3 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

Letter showing line-in line-out
changes from draft circulated a.m. 4/9

37-2364-5

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TIME STAMP

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

SYSTEM II

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 90364 response

87 APR 9 4: 01

ACTION OFFICER: ERMARTH

DUE: 10 APR.

☐ Prepare Memo For President

☐ Prepare Memo Green to Peterson / Murr

☒ Prepare Memo for Carlucci / Powell

☐ Appropriate Action

☐ Prepare Memo

to

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. 5112

FYI

- ☐ Batjer
- ☐ Bemis
- ☐ Brooks
- ☐ Burns
- ☐ Childress
- ☐ Cobb
- ☐ Cohen
- ☐ Collins
- ☐ Danzansky
- ☐ Dean, B.
- ☐ Dobriansky
- ☐ Donley
- ☐ Douglass
- ☐ Ermarth
- ☐ Farrar
- ☐ Flower
- ☐ Fortier
- ☐ Grimes

FYI

- ☐ Henhoeffer
- ☐ Howard
- ☐ Kelly, B.
- ☐ Kelly, J.
- ☐ Kimberling
- ☐ Kissell
- ☐ Kraemer
- ☐ Lewis
- ☒ Linhard
- ☐ Mahley
- ☐ Major
- ☐ Mathews
- ☐ McNamara
- ☐ Oakley
- ☐ Paal
- ☐ Platt
- ☐ Porter
- ☐ Pugliaresi

FYI

- ☐ Reger
- ☐ Rodman
- ☐ Rosenberg
- ☐ Ross
- ☐ Rostow
- ☐ Saunders
- ☐ Scharfen
- ☐ Smith
- ☐ Sommer
- ☐ Sorzano
- ☐ Steiner
- ☐ Stevens
- ☐ St Martin
- ☐ Tahir-Kheli
- ☐ Tice
- ☐ Tillman
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

INFORMATION ☒ Green

☐ Rodman

☐ Carlucci (advance)

☒ Pearson

☐ Cockell

☐ Powell (advance)

☒ Secretariat

☐ _____

☐ _____

COMMENTS

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 28, 1997
By dlb NARA, Date 5/24/99

Return to Secretariat

~~SECRET~~ / SENSITIVE

17

INT. ENCLOSURE

SITE

D

87 APR 9 P3:41

942

MSG NBR

SITUATION ROOM

DATE & TIME RECEIVED

DATE & TIME TRANSMITTED

TO BE COMPLETED BY REQUESTOR

FROM SEC DEF OFFICE/DESK MIL ASST PHONE NBR 6955261SUBJECT LETTER TO GORBACHEVPAGES 12

DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:

- ☐ HOLD FOR NORMAL DUTY HOURS
- ☒ IMMEDIATELY

NOTE: FURNISH AFTER DUTY HOUR CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER
FOR EACH ADDRESSEE REQUIRING AFTER DUTY HOUR DELIVERY

TRANSMIT TO

AGENCY	INDIVIDUAL (NAME)	OFFICE	ROOM NBR	PHONE NBR
<u>NSC</u>	<u>GENERAL POWELL</u>			
	<u>Green</u>			
	<u>Pearson</u>			

REMARKS:

LONG BACK COPY REQUESTED/ OVER 10 PAGES OK'd Col SullivanJCS J-3 FORM 8
JAN 84

REQUEST/RECEIPT FOR TRANSMISSION

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL
OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

5/26/12

~~SECRET~~ / SENSITIVE

17

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE MILITARY ASSISTANT

April 9, 1987

NOTE FOR GENERAL POWELL

Mr. Weinberger has reviewed the attached letter and comments are inserted in the margins. In addition he forwarded the following comments:

Page 7, first para, the agreement "not to withdraw" should be subject to the national withdrawal exception.

Page 8, last para, last sentence, Mr. Weinberger believes it is not wise to say Secretary Shultz will "explain each in detail."

4R 
Gordon E. Farnell
Major General, USAF

Attachment

UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENTS
THIS DOCUMENT BECOMES UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

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OF CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE(S)

11/9/87
5/10/88

~~SECRET~~

SYSTEM 1:
90364

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

April 9, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Letter to General Secretary Gorbachev

Attached is the draft text of a proposed letter from the President to General Secretary Gorbachev. Could I have your personal views as soon as possible on the text and on the timing of its release.



Colin L. Powell

Attachments
Draft letter (8)

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, August 23, 1997
By dlb NARA, Date 4/24/97

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90344

April 9, 1987

Dear Mr. General Secretary:

Since it has been some time since you and I last communicated directly, I would like to give you my thoughts on how we might bring to fulfillment what I see as a promising moment in our relations. Secretary of State Shultz will, of course, be ready to discuss these matters in detail during his visit to Moscow.

First let me say that, in reviewing the relationship between our two countries, I am pleased that there has been some progress on the agenda that you and I have set out in our meetings. Senior officials of our governments have begun a new cycle of discussions on regional affairs; the conversations between Under Secretary Armacost and senior Soviet officials last month in Moscow demonstrate that this aspect of our dialogue is becoming more candid and wide-ranging. Our two governments seem close to agreement on establishment of Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers. An agreement on space cooperation has been concluded, and work is proceeding to expand other bilateral contacts between our governments and peoples. I am watching with great interest a number of developments in your country which touch on the concerns I have discussed with you regarding human rights and humanitarian issues. There has been some modest progress in expanding non-strategic trade between our two countries.

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Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED / RELEASED

~~SECRET~~

NLS MR 2000-004 #23

BY smf, NARA, DATE 10/4/00

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Welcome as these steps are, they are only a beginning. Concrete progress on the large issues must remain our overriding objective. . . .

I must reiterate to you my great concern and continuing opposition to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, which imposes a singularly heavy burden on East-West relations. The statements which Under Secretary Armacost heard in Moscow about Soviet determination to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan are welcome. I note that some movement has taken place at the Geneva proximity talks and that the USSR may be studying seriously the possibility of a process of national reconciliation leading to self-determination. However, I want you to understand clearly my view, shared fully by the Government of Pakistan, the Resistance Alliance, and most other governments, that a lengthy timetable for the withdrawal of your troops, far longer than dictated by logistic requirements, and an approach to national reconciliation merely designed to preserve a communist-dominated regime in Kabul will only prolong the war. They will not lead to a lasting political settlement which would benefit both our governments and the countries of the region.

Encouraging statements by Soviet leaders need to be backed up by actual Soviet steps to withdraw Soviet forces. Unfortunately, such steps have not been taken. On the contrary, the Soviet Union and the Kabul regime have stepped up bombing raids against

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villages in Pakistan that have resulted in numerous civilian casualties. Such actions serve only to magnify the suffering, to prolong the war, to increase the danger of a larger East-West confrontation, and to call into question the sincerity of Soviet statements that the USSR wishes to withdraw its forces. Such actions will not cause those who oppose Soviet occupation of Afghanistan to reduce or to relent in their opposition.

The United States supports genuine efforts to achieve a political settlement to the conflict that is acceptable to the people of Afghanistan. We seek no strategic advantage in Afghanistan and recognize the Soviet interest in a secure southern border. We have made clear in the past, and I repeat to you, that the United States will lend its political support to an agreement, consistent with United Nations resolutions, which brings about the speedy and complete withdrawal of Soviet troops.

But the critical steps that will allow the Afghan people to live in peace must be taken by the USSR. What is needed, Mr. General Secretary, is a clean political decision by your government to withdraw Soviet forces promptly. I realize this decision will not be easy. But you have shown unusual boldness and courage in addressing the internal problems of your country. No single act by the USSR would do more to convince the world that you intend to apply genuinely new thinking to Soviet foreign policy, or gain you more international respect, than to withdraw quickly from Afghanistan.

within three months time.

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With respect to human rights and humanitarian concerns, we have seen -- and acknowledged -- positive steps in many of the areas you and I have discussed. I hope that these steps are only a beginning. You have resolved one-half of all our divided family representation list cases, and two-thirds of our separated spouse cases; is it not possible to resolve the small number of remaining cases? You have now released over 100 political prisoners; is it not possible to release those still in prison for expressing their views? Emigration has begun to rise modestly; we hope for a substantial, sustained increase. There is also a particular urgency to the limited number of cases of seriously ill persons seeking to travel for medical treatment abroad. Finally, I hope you find some means to resolve several cases of special interest to me, including pianist Vladimir Feltsman, refusenik Ida Nudel, separated spouse Galina Goltzman, and dual national Abe Stolar and his family. Continuing progress in these areas will help significantly in improving our relations, and will be welcomed by the entire world.

*Add a sentence noting that Mr Shultz will discuss
Nicaragua, Cambodia and Angola.*
In the area of our bilateral relations, much is developing in

promising directions. It is therefore [regrettable] that I must raise with you the matter of your penetration of our embassy in Moscow which we have lately discovered. Let me get directly to the point. Your government ruthlessly exploits the many advantages it enjoys as a very closed society pursuing intelligence objectives against a very open one; it does so with cavalier

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(add "unbrage")

disregard for our diplomatic rights and the damage this does to our relationship. If this lack of prudence on the part of the USSR continues, the USSR should expect to suffer the resulting discomfort and political cost equally with the United States.

Regarding arms control, my points of departure are our agreement in Geneva to expand common ground and the advances we made in our meetings in Geneva and Reykjavik. Both meetings were stepping stones to the goals we have mutually set. From your own recent statements, and in view of the encouraging work now underway at the Nuclear and Space Talks in Geneva, I believe we are in accord on the urgency of moving forward from Reykjavik. Our task is to find ways to bridge remaining differences.

Our two sides have filled out many of the details of potential agreements on deep and stabilizing reductions in nuclear forces. Other important aspects still await resolution. Solving these questions is essential if reductions agreements are to realize the goal of greater military stability.

The United States places the highest priority on achieving substantial reductions in offensive nuclear arms. Thus, I am heartened that we are getting closer to agreement on deep and equitable reductions in longer-range INF missiles, as we work toward their total elimination. To this end, our negotiators have begun addressing the specific details of treaty language to

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6

implement the formula that we agreed on in Reykjavik. And, while we have yet to have the benefit of detailed Soviet proposals, we are in a position with mutual effort to begin to make progress on the elements essential to ensure effective verification.

As we have made clear since 1981, an INF agreement must have appropriate concurrent constraints on shorter-range INF systems. Your agreement to this principle at our meeting in Reykjavik was a significant advance, although work remains to be done on the specific nature of those constraints. In particular, such constraints must be based on equality of rights between us. I hope that we can work together to resolve our differences about the nature of those constraints.

Regarding strategic offensive forces, the formula for 50 percent reductions that you and I developed and agreed upon in Geneva and Reykjavik provides us with an historic opportunity to move toward a better, safer world now. Limiting both sides to 6000 warheads on 1600 deployed ICBMs, deployed SLEMs, and heavy bombers -- with appropriate warhead sublimits, counting rules, and verification measures -- would be a dramatic and effective step toward that goal. We should strive toward a rapid and uncomplicated achievement of such an agreement without imposing unnecessary conditions on its realization.

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7

26

I recall your expressed concerns regarding the uncertainties you perceive to be associated with our SDI program. In your February 28 speech, you expressed concern that this program might lead to the deployment of weapons in space. In direct response to your concerns that we assure predictability in the strategic regime of the next decade, and, in an effort to move the negotiations on reductions in strategic offensive arms forward, I am prepared to sign a treaty now that would commit the United States and the Soviet Union through 1994 not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty for the purpose of deploying operational defensive systems whose deployment is not permitted by the treaty. After 1994, we would both be able to deploy strategic defenses unless we agreed otherwise.

It goes without saying that I stand by my previous offers to find appropriate methods to share the benefits of any such defenses in the context of an agreed transition permitting the increasing contribution of defenses and moving us toward the elimination of ballistic missiles. I would be prepared to add this element to any new Defense and Space agreement, as well as to consider certain other ideas which could give us both more predictability about each other's efforts in the area of strategic defenses.

At the same time, you and I would sign a treaty implementing the agreed-upon 50 percent reductions, in strategic offensive arms,

within seven years,

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~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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27

with appropriate warhead sublimits. On the vital issue of ballistic missile warhead sublimits, both our sides have made several proposals that are very close and in some cases identical. The American proposal for a sublimit of 4000 ballistic missile warheads is essentially the same as the Soviet proposal for an 80 percent sublimit. Our proposed sublimit of 3300 ICBM warheads draws upon your 60 percent suggestion. Your proposal to reduce heavy ICBMs by half addresses some of the concerns dealt with by our proposed third sublimit on especially dangerous ICBMs.

In recognition of your concerns that such sublimits would force a rapid restructuring of your forces, I suggest that we agree to extend the period to complete the 50 percent reduction to seven years from the date a treaty takes effect. With this additional time, it should be possible for both sides to implement such sublimits without undue burden.

My proposal, therefore, is that we instruct our negotiators to focus immediately on drafting treaties to implement the principle of 50 percent reductions in seven years with agreed, appropriate sublimits, and a mutual commitment through 1994 not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty for the purpose of deploying defensive systems whose deployment is not permitted by the treaty. [I have asked Secretary Shultz to explain this approach in greater detail during his impending visit.]

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~~SECRET~~

I hope you will consider these ideas seriously. My effort is to bridge our differences and remove obstacles on the way toward our agreed goals. Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze should explore these ideas further when they meet in Moscow next week.

I believe these proposals can lead to rapid progress in the SALT negotiations. As we move ahead toward reductions of nuclear forces, I wish to stress the importance of addressing other potential sources of military instability, particularly imbalances regarding conventional forces and chemical weapons. As you know, representatives of the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are discussing with representatives of the Warsaw Pact a new mandate for negotiations to achieve a stable balance on conventional forces in Europe at lower levels. The U.S. and Soviet Union are discussing bilaterally and multilaterally the many issues related to a global ban on chemical weapons.

In all these negotiations, it will be vital to develop effective means of verification to ensure confidence in the agreements reached. Both the United States and the Soviet Union have expressed concerns about effective verification in the past. The strongest possible verification regime is in the interests of both our nations.

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Mr. General Secretary, our two countries have worked hard to establish the basis for accords that would strengthen peace and security. Much remains to be done to make 1987 the year that will bring these efforts to fruition, and I am prepared to embark on an intensive process to see that this is accomplished.

The discussions between Secretary Shultz and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will, I hope, prove to be an important step in this process.

Sincerely,

~~SECRET~~

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