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**National Security Council
The White House**

6-28

System # 47
Package # 90014

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bill Martin			
Bob Kimmitt			
John Poindexter	1	J	
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
Bob Kimmitt	2	K	A
NSC Secretariat	3		A
Situation Room	<u>Brian</u> -- send copy of cmts to Matlock only ASAP Keep original so we can get to it quickly. B.		
I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action			

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

Please send OSD comments to Jack
Matlock [Signature]

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Memo For

10/1
Adm John Poindexter

John,

Attached are
speech comments per
our conversation.
believe edits & inserts
are self-explanatory. Have
your speechwriter call me
if he needs help deciphering.

Colin

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

10 January 1984

Memo For Gen. Colin Powell

Attached are two proposed inserts and a mark-up of the President's Speech.

Richard

1/10/84

Attachments

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SPEECH MATERIAL:

PERCE & KLE &
Comments.

In a few days, I will be sending to the Congress a report that outlines the record of Soviet compliance with past arms control treaties. It is a report that warrants the most serious of attention by all our lawmakers. Its results, which I want to share with you, are of deep concern to all of us who fervently want to reduce the risk of nuclear war through deep and verifiable arms reductions.

Let me assure you, this report was carefully prepared. All the available evidence was scrutinized for months. The relevant treaty provisions and negotiating records were examined in detail. And all plausible explanations for Soviet behavior were closely examined against the evidence available to us.

Based on this evidence, we have had no choice but to conclude that the Soviets have violated a number of arms control treaties. Specifically, they have violated the Biological Weapons Convention ban on toxin weapons; the Helsinki Final Act procedures for notifying large military exercises, and, almost certainly, the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty prohibitions concerning the deployment of ABM radars. They have also violated critical provisions of the SALT II treaty with respect to the encryption of telemetry needed to verify compliance with that accord and at least one provision intended to ensure that no more than one new type of ICBM is deployed by either party.

To all who have studied the Soviet compliance record it has been obvious for some time that Moscow has exploited every loophole and ambiguity that could be advanced as a justification for continuing their build up of nuclear weapons. The Soviets have, since the first SALT I negotiations began in 1969, added some 7,000 warheads to their inventory of strategic and intermediate nuclear forces. What is perhaps most disturbing is that the earlier pattern of exploiting

loopholes and ambiguities has given way to an expanding pattern of out and out violations -- actions lacking even the thin veneer of plausibility behind which the Soviets have long violated the spirit of arms control agreements while claiming adherence to their letter.

I have called upon Soviet President Yuri Andropov to take those actions necessary to end the several violations that we have identified. And I have initiated a comprehensive study of the options available to us to deal with any violations that the Soviet leaders prove unwilling to reverse.

SUBSTITUTE PARAGRAPH 1

Today the United States has some 8,000 fewer nuclear weapons deployed than we had in the late 1960's. And the megatonnage of this reduced force is barely a quarter of what it was in the 1960's, and the lowest level in more than 25 years. Even our vital modernization program is aimed, not at increasing our strategic forces, but at replacing weapons that are approaching obsolescence with substitutes that are safer, more reliable and more capable of withstanding attack from numerically superior Soviet forces.

Some of the strategic weapons in our inventory are 25 years old or older. Many are nearing the end of their useful operational life. But even after we have replaced obsolete forces we will have thousands fewer nuclear warheads than in the late 1960's.

(NSC/Myer/PE)
January 5, 1984
4:30 p.m.

1
FI
Comments
clipped

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: National Press Club

Thank you very much for inviting me back to visit your distinguished group. I'm grateful for this opportunity during these first days of 1984, to speak through you to the people of the world on a subject of great importance to the cause of peace -- relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In just a few days, the United States will join the Soviet Union and the other nations of Europe at an international security conference in Stockholm. We are determined to uphold our responsibility as a major power to ease potential sources of conflict. The conference will search for practical and meaningful ways to increase European security *Of you can make even small steps, it is a beginning on the long road to a just peace.* ~~and preserve peace.~~ We will go to Stockholm bearing the heartfelt wishes of our people for genuine progress.

We live in a time not only of challenges to peace but also of opportunities for peace. Through decades of difficulty and frustration, America's highest aspiration has never wavered: We have and will continue to struggle for a lasting peace that enhances dignity for men and women everywhere. I believe 1984 finds the United States in its strongest position in years to establish a constructive and realistic working relationship with the Soviet Union.

Some fundamental changes have taken place since the decade of the seventies -- years when the United States *seemed filled with self doubts and self apprehensions* ~~questioned its role in the world~~ and neglected its defenses, while the Soviet

Union increased its military might and sought to expand its influence through threats and use of force.

Three years ago we embraced a mandate from the American people to change course, and we have. Today America can once again demonstrate, with equal conviction, our commitment to stay secure, and *at the same time find* peaceful solutions to problems through negotiations. January 1984 is a time of opportunities for peace.

History teaches that wars begin when ~~governments~~ *aggressive nations* believe the price of aggression is cheap. To keep the peace, we and our allies must remain strong enough to convince any potential aggressor that war could bring no benefit, only disaster. Our goal is deterrence, plain and simple.

With the support of the American people and the Congress, we halted America's decline. Our economy is in the midst of the best recovery since the sixties. Our defenses are being rebuilt. Our alliances are solid and our commitment to defend our values has never been more clear. There is credibility and consistency.

America's recovery may have taken Soviet leaders by surprise. They may have counted on us to keep weakening ourselves. They have been saying for years that our demise was inevitable. They said it so often they probably started believing it. But they can see now they were wrong.

Neither we nor the Soviet Union can wish away the differences between our two societies. Our rivalry will persist. But we should always remember that we do have common interests. And the foremost among them is to avoid war and reduce the level

of arms. There is no rational alternative but to steer a course which I would call "constructive competition."

Nevertheless, we've recently been hearing some very strident rhetoric from the Kremlin. These harsh words have led some to speak of heightened uncertainty and an increased danger of conflict. This is understandable, but profoundly mistaken. Look beyond the words, and one fact stands out plainly: Deterrence is being restored and making the world a safer place.

The world is safer because there is less danger^{now} that the Soviet leadership will provoke a confrontation by underestimating our strength or resolve. We have no desire to threaten. Freedom poses no threat, it speaks the language of progress. We proved this 35 years ago when we had a monopoly of nuclear weapons; and could have dominated the world. But we used our power to write a new chapter in the history of mankind, rebuilding the war-ravaged economies of East and West, including those nations who had been our enemies.

America's character has not changed. Our strength and vision of progress provide the basis for stability and meaningful negotiations. Soviet leaders know it makes sense to compromise only if they can get something in return. America's economic and military strength permit us to offer something in return. Yes, today is a time of opportunities for peace.

But to say that the world is safer is not to say that it is safe enough. We are witnessing tragic conflicts in many parts of the world. Nuclear arsenals are far too high. And our working

relationship with the Soviet Union is not what it must be. These are conditions which must be addressed and improved.

Deterrence is essential to preserve peace and protect our way of life, but deterrence is not the beginning and end of our policy toward the Soviet Union. We must and will engage the Soviets in a dialogue as ~~cordial~~ ^{constructive} and cooperative as possible, a dialogue that ~~will~~ ^{could} serve to promote peace in the troubled regions of the world, reduce the level of arms, and build a constructive working relationship. X

First, we must find ways to eliminate the use and threat of force in solving international disputes.

The world has witnessed more than 150 conflicts since the end of World War II alone. Armed conflicts are raging in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Central America, and Africa. In other regions, independent nations are confronted by heavily armed neighbors seeking to dominate by threatening attack or subversion.

^{insert from pgs}
Most of these conflicts have their roots in local problems, but many have been fanned and exploited by the Soviet Union and its surrogates -- and, of course, Afghanistan has suffered an outright Soviet invasion. Fueling regional conflicts and exporting ~~revolution~~ ^{totalitarian rule} only exacerbates local conflicts, increases suffering, and makes solutions to real social and economic problems more difficult. X

Would it not be better and safer to assist the peoples and governments in areas of conflict in negotiating peaceful

Weak
but
harmless

solutions? Today, I am asking the Soviet leaders to join with us in cooperative efforts to move the world in this safer direction.

Second, our aim is to find ways to reduce the vast stockpiles of armaments in the world, particularly nuclear weapons.

not only are these conflicts disruptive, they are also costly.
It is tragic to see the world's developing nations spending more than \$150 billion a year on arms -- almost 20 percent of their national budgets. We must find ways to reverse the vicious circle of threat and response which drives arms races everywhere it occurs.

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Shid We
Section

insert # on why, when we have enough to destroy world x times we need more
While modernizing our defenses, we have done only what is needed to establish a stable military balance. In fact, America's total nuclear stockpile has declined. We have fewer warheads today than we had 28 years ago. And our nuclear stockpile is at the lowest level in 25 years in terms of its total destructive power.

under
Point 1.
pg 4

*make the
clear for
statement
intention*

*substitute
1*

Just 2 months ago, we and our allies agreed to withdraw an additional 1,400 nuclear warheads from Western Europe. This comes after the removal of a thousand nuclear warheads from Europe over the last 3 years. Even if all our planned intermediate-range missiles have to be deployed in Europe over the next 5 years -- *if the Soviet would come to equal, Soviet levels* -- ~~and we hope~~ this will not be necessary, we will have eliminated five existing warheads for each new warhead deployed.

But this is not enough. We must accelerate our efforts to reach agreements to reduce greatly the numbers of nuclear weapons. It was with this goal in mind that I first proposed

here, in November 1981, the "zero option" for intermediate-range missiles. Our aim was and remains to eliminate in one fell swoop an entire class of nuclear arms. Although NATO's initial deployment of INF missiles was an important achievement, I would still ^{greatly} prefer that there be no INF missile deployments on either side. Indeed, I support a zero option for all nuclear arms. As I have said before, my dream is to see the day when nuclear weapons will be banished from the face of the Earth.

Last month, the Soviet Defense Minister stated that his

country shares the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Important! Carter got killed by R.R. saying we and Soviet share same goal.
→ If ~~we~~ ^{both our countries share this same goal, we ~~must~~ ^{should} begin again with the} These are encouraging words. ^{But} now is a time for ^{first step toward that goal.} opportunity -- a time to move from words to deeds -- and to return to the negotiating table.

Our third aim is to work with the Soviet Union to establish a better working relationship with greater cooperation and understanding.

Cooperation and understanding are built on deeds, not words. Complying with agreements helps; violating them hurts. Respecting the rights of individual citizens bolsters the relationship; denying these rights harms it. Expanding contacts across borders and permitting a free interchange of information and ideas increase confidence; sealing off one's people from the rest of the world reduces it. Peaceful trade helps, while organized theft of industrial secrets certainly hurts.

These examples illustrate clearly why our relationship with the Soviet Union is not what it should be. We have a long way to go, but we are determined to try and try again.

In working toward these goals, our approach is based on three guiding principles: realism, strength, and dialogue.

Realism means we start by understanding the world we live in. We must recognize that we are in a long-term competition with a government that does not share our notions of individual liberties at home and peaceful change abroad. We must be frank in acknowledging our differences and unafraid to defend our values.

I have openly expressed my view of the Soviet system. This should come as no surprise to Soviet leaders who have never shied away from expressing their view of our system. But this does not mean we can't deal with each other. We do not refuse to talk when the Soviets call us "imperialist aggressors," or because they cling to the fantasy of a communist triumph over democracy. The fact that neither of us likes the other's system is no reason to refuse to talk. Living in this nuclear age makes it imperative that we talk.

Strength means we ~~know we cannot~~ negotiate successfully or protect our interests. ^{we cannot do either.} If we are weak, Our strength is necessary not only to deter war, but to facilitate negotiation and solutions ~~compromise.~~

Strength is more than military power. Economic strength is crucial and America's economy is leading the world into recovery. Equally important is unity among our people at home and with our allies abroad. We are ^{far} stronger in all these areas than 3 years ago.



X

Amesbury Mass. 1892

(Handwritten signature)

History

These proposals are...
activities. In the Geneva negotiations, we have proposed that *risk of a*
the U.S. and Soviet Union exchange advance notifications of *"any" missile*
missile tests and major military exercises. *Following up on miscalculation*
~~congressional suggestions, we also proposed a number of ways to~~
~~improve direct U.S.-Soviet channels of communication.~~

These bilateral proposals will be broadened at the Stockholm conference. We will work hard to develop practical, meaningful ways to reduce the uncertainty and potential for misinterpretation surrounding military activities, and to diminish the risks of surprise attack.

Arms control has long been the most visible area of U.S.-Soviet dialogue. But a durable peace also requires us to defuse tensions and regional conflicts. We and the Soviets should have a common interest in promoting regional stability, and in finding peaceful solutions to existing conflicts that permit developing nations to concentrate their energies on economic growth. Thus we seek to engage the Soviets in exchanges of views on these regional conflicts and tensions and on how we can both contribute to stability and a lowering of tensions.

Our approach is constructive, but little has come of it. We remain convinced that on issues like these it is in the Soviet Union's best interest to cooperate in achieving broad-based, negotiated solutions. If the Soviet leaders make that choice, they will find the United States ready to cooperate.

Another major problem in our dialogue with the Soviet Union is human rights. It is Soviet practices in this area, as much as

any other issue, that have created the mistrust and ill will that hangs over our relationship.

Moral considerations alone compel us to express our deep concern over prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union, over the virtual halt in the emigration of Jews, Armenians, and others who wish to join their families abroad, and over the continuing harrassment of courageous people like Andrei Sakharov.

Our request is simple and straightforward: The Soviet Union must live up to the obligations it has freely assumed under international covenants -- in particular, its commitments under the Helsinki Accords, ~~And the chemical + biological warfare treaties (Wray plane)~~ Experience has shown that greater respect for human rights can contribute to progress in other areas of the Soviet-American relationship.

Conflicts of interest between the United States and the Soviet Union are real. But we can and must keep the peace between our two nations and make it a better and more peaceful world for all mankind.

These are the objectives of our policy toward the Soviet Union, a policy of constructive competition that will serve both nations and people everywhere for the long haul. Constructive competition is a challenge for Americans; it will require patience. It is also a challenge for the Soviets. If they WE, FOR OUR PART, WILL MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH WE REQUIRE TO cannot meet us half way, we will be prepared to protect our DETER SOVIET RESORT TO THE USE OF FORCE. interests, and those of our friends and allies. But we want more

than deterrence; we seek genuine cooperation; we seek progress for peace.

*between the two different systems.
in the world we must have a peaceful relationship
from the two different systems. It is important to
fundamental differences. The world is not a place
Freedom, Communism*

Cooperation begins with communication. We seek such communication. We will stay at the negotiating tables in Geneva and Vienna. Furthermore, Secretary Shultz is prepared to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Stockholm. This meeting should be followed by others, so that high-level consultations become a regular and normal component of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Our challenge is peaceful. It will bring out the best in us. It also calls for the best from the Soviet Union. No one can predict how the Soviet leaders will respond to our challenge. But our two countries share with all mankind the dream of eliminating the risks of nuclear war. It is not an impossible dream, because eliminating those ^{risks} is so clearly a vital interest for all of us. We have never fought each other; there is no reason we ever should. Indeed, we have fought alongside one another in the past. Today our common enemies are hunger, disease, ignorance and, above all, war.

More than 20 years ago, President Kennedy defined an approach that is as realistic and hopeful today as when he announced it:

"So, let us not be blind to our differences -- but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

I urge the Soviet leadership to move from pause to progress. If the Soviet government wants peace then there will be peace. The journey from proposals to progress to agreements may be

difficult. But that should not indict the past or despair the future. America is prepared for a major breakthrough or modest advances. *if it can be achieved without compromising our basic goals* We welcome compromise. In this spirit of constructive competition, we can strengthen peace, we can reduce greatly the level of arms, and, yes, we can brighten the hopes and dreams of people everywhere. Let us begin now.

*and the advances
we have made since
the beginnings of our
country.*

(NSC/Myer/BE)
January 5, 1984
4:30 p.m.

19
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TROIA

COMMENTS.

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Thank you very much for inviting me back to visit your distinguished group. I'm grateful for this opportunity during these first days of 1984, to speak through you to the people of the world on a subject of great importance to the cause of peace -- relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

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Union increased its military might and sought to expand its influence through threats and use of force.

Three years ago we embraced a mandate from the American people to change course, and we have. Today America can once again demonstrate, with equal conviction, our commitment to stay secure, *at the same time and fair* to find peaceful solutions to problems through negotiations. January 1984 is a time of opportunities for peace.

History teaches that wars begin when *aggressor nations* ~~governments~~ believe the price of aggression is cheap. To keep the peace, we and our allies must remain strong enough to convince any potential aggressor that war could bring no benefit, only disaster. Our goal is deterrence, plain and simple.

With the support of the American people and the Congress, we halted America's decline. Our economy is in the midst of the best recovery since the sixties. Our defenses are being rebuilt. Our alliances are solid and our commitment to defend our values has never been more clear. There is credibility and consistency.

America's recovery may have taken Soviet leaders by surprise. They may have counted on us to keep weakening ourselves. They have been saying for years that our demise was inevitable. They said it so often they probably started believing it. But they can see now they were wrong.

Neither we nor the Soviet Union can wish away the differences between our two societies. Our rivalry will persist. But we should always remember that we do have common interests. And the foremost among them is to avoid war and reduce the level

of arms. There is no rational alternative but to steer a course which I would call "constructive competition."

Nevertheless, we've recently been hearing some very strident rhetoric from the Kremlin. These harsh words have led some to speak of heightened uncertainty and an increased danger of conflict. This is understandable, but profoundly mistaken. Look beyond the words, and one fact stands out plainly: Deterrence is being restored and making the world a safer place.

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relationship with the Soviet Union is not what it must be. These are conditions which must be addressed and improved.

Deterrence is essential to preserve peace and protect our way of life, but deterrence is not the beginning and end of our policy toward the Soviet Union. We must and will engage the Soviets in a dialogue as cordial and cooperative as possible, a dialogue that will serve to promote peace in the troubled regions of the world, reduce the level of arms, and build a constructive working relationship.

First, we must find ways to eliminate the use and threat of force in solving international disputes.

The world has witnessed more than 150 conflicts since the end of World War II alone. Armed conflicts are raging in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Central America, and Africa. In other regions, independent nations are confronted by heavily armed neighbors seeking to dominate by threatening attack or subversion.

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Would it not be better and safer to assist the peoples and governments in areas of conflict in negotiating peaceful

solutions? Today, I am asking the Soviet leaders to join with us in cooperative efforts to move the world in this safer direction.

Second, our aim is to find ways to reduce the vast stockpiles of armaments in the world, particularly nuclear weapons.

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~~Insert # on why, when we have enough to destroy world x times we need more~~
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under Point 1. pg 4

nuclear weapons make the case for strategic modernization

Just 2 months ago, we and our allies agreed to withdraw an additional 1,400 nuclear warheads from Western Europe. This comes after the removal of a thousand nuclear warheads from Europe over the last 3 years. Even if all our planned intermediate-range missiles have to be deployed in Europe over the next 5 years -- ~~and we hope~~ *if the Soviets would agree to equal, lower levels* this will not be necessary, we will have eliminated five existing warheads for each new warhead deployed.

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Last month, the Soviet Defense Minister stated that his country shares the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

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Our third aim is to work with the Soviet Union to establish a better working relationship with greater cooperation and understanding.

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These examples illustrate clearly why our relationship with the Soviet Union is not what it should be. We have a long way to go, but we are determined to try and try again.

In working toward these goals, our approach is based on three guiding principles: realism, strength, and dialogue.

Realism means we start by understanding the world we live in. We must recognize that we are in a long-term competition with a government that does not share our notions of individual liberties at home and peaceful change abroad. We must be frank in acknowledging our differences and unafraid to defend our values.

I have openly expressed my view of the Soviet system. This should come as no surprise to Soviet leaders who have never shied away from expressing their view of our system. But this does not mean we can't deal with each other. We do not refuse to talk when the Soviets call us "imperialist aggressors," or because they cling to the fantasy of a communist triumph over democracy. The fact that neither of us likes the other's system is no reason to refuse to talk. Living in this nuclear age makes it imperative that we talk.

Strength means we ~~know we cannot~~ negotiate successfully or protect our interests. ^{we cannot do either.} If we are weak, Our strength is necessary not only to deter war, but to facilitate negotiation and compromise.

Strength is more than military power. Economic strength is crucial and America's economy is leading the world into recovery. Equally important is unity among our people at home and with our allies abroad. We are ^{far} stronger in all these areas than 3 years ago.

Dialogue means we are determined to deal with our differences peacefully, through negotiation. We are prepared to discuss all the problems that divide us, and to work for practical, fair solutions on the basis of mutual compromise. We will never retreat from negotiations.

Our commitment to dialogue is firm and unshakeable. But we do insist that our negotiations deal with real problems, not atmospherics.

In our approach to negotiations, reducing the risk of war -- and especially nuclear war -- is priority number one. A nuclear confrontation could well be mankind's last. The comprehensive set of initiatives that we have proposed would reduce substantially the size of nuclear arsenals. And I am ready to go much further: If the Soviet Union is willing, we can work together and with others to rid our planet ^{completely} of the nuclear threat ~~altogether~~.

The world regrets that the Soviet Union broke off negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces, and has refused to set a date for further talks on strategic arms. Our negotiators are ready to return to the negotiating table, and to conclude agreements in INF and START. We will negotiate in good faith. Whenever the Soviet Union is ready to do likewise, we will meet them half way.

We seek not only to reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons,

but also to reduce the chances for dangerous misunderstanding and miscalculation. So we have put forward proposals for what we call "confidence-building measures." They cover a wide range of

but to achieve serious negotiations

impossible + destabilizing conditions for their return - Do we really know that their retention is necessary?

first arms reduction can only be important thing that is worth looking at

including improving the 30 year old hot line between Washington & Moscow with the latest electronic equipment, to reduce further the risk of a "war by mistake or miscalculation."

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These bilateral proposals will be broadened at the Stockholm conference. We will work hard to develop practical, meaningful ways to reduce the uncertainty and potential for misinterpretation surrounding military activities, and to diminish the risks of surprise attack.

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Our approach is constructive, but little has come of it. We remain convinced that on issues like these it is in the Soviet Union's best interest to cooperate in achieving broad-based, negotiated solutions. If the Soviet leaders make that choice, they will find the United States ready to cooperate.

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Our request is simple and straightforward: The Soviet Union must live up to the obligations it has freely assumed under international covenants -- in particular, its commitments under the Helsinki Accords, *And the chemical & biological warfare treaties.* Experience has shown that greater respect for human rights can contribute to progress in other areas of the Soviet-American relationship.

Conflicts of interest between the United States and the Soviet Union are real. But we can and must keep the peace between our two nations and make it a better and more peaceful world for all mankind.

These are the objectives of our policy toward the Soviet Union, a policy of constructive competition that will serve both nations and people everywhere for the long haul. Constructive competition is a challenge for Americans; it will require patience. It is also a challenge for the Soviets. If they cannot meet us half way, we will be prepared to protect our interests, and those of our friends and allies. But we want more than deterrence; we seek genuine cooperation; we seek progress for peace, *between two very different systems.*

in areas where our National interests permit, even though we continue to recognize the fundamental differences that will always exist between Freedom & Communism

Cooperation begins with communication. We seek such communication. We will stay at the negotiating tables in Geneva and Vienna. Furthermore, Secretary Shultz is prepared to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in Stockholm. This meeting should be followed by others, so that high-level consultations become a regular and normal component of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Our challenge is peaceful. It will bring out the best in us. It also calls for the best from the Soviet Union. No one can predict how the Soviet leaders will respond to our challenge. But our two countries share with all mankind the dream of eliminating the risks of nuclear war. It is not an impossible dream, because eliminating those ^{risks} is so clearly a vital interest for all of us. We have never fought each other; there is no reason we ever should. Indeed, we have fought alongside one another in the past. Today our common enemies are hunger, disease, ignorance and, above all, war.

More than 20 years ago, President Kennedy defined an approach that is as realistic and hopeful today as when he announced it:

"So, let us not be blind to our differences -- but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal."

I urge the Soviet leadership to move from pause to progress. If the Soviet government wants peace then there will be peace. The journey from proposals to progress to agreements may be

difficult. But that should not indict the past ^{nor cause} ~~for~~ despair, ^{for} the future. America is prepared for a major breakthrough or modest advances. ^{if it can be achieved without compromising our basic goals,} We welcome compromise. In this spirit of constructive competition, we can strengthen peace, we can reduce greatly the level of arms, and, yes, we can brighten the hopes and dreams of people everywhere. Let us begin now.

and the advances
we have made since
the beginnings of our
country.