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KT

(Gilder/BE)
November 12, 1985
5:00 p.m. SS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DEPARTURE CEREMONY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1985

Thank you all for coming to see Nancy and I off on our trip.

When I spoke to the Nation Thursday evening, I said I leave for Geneva with peace and freedom on my mind. These are the goals of all Americans -- and they will be my guiding stars in Geneva and beyond.

I also said that our hopes for this meeting must be tempered with realism. The profound differences that divide the free peoples of the world from the Soviet Union did not grow up overnight. They cannot be talked away or papered over by treaties. One short set of meetings cannot erase the last 68 years of history.

What we can do in Geneva is work to develop a specific program of negotiation on the range of issues that most trouble the relations between our two countries -- the issues of human rights, regional conflicts, nuclear arms, and people-to-people contacts.

I hope these talks will be fruitful. I go with the confidence that behind us stands the whole of the American people, 220 million strong, united in their hopes for peace and love of freedom. And that, in spirit, our delegation includes one extra member -- Miss Liberty, the generous and gracious lady who has welcomed so many millions to our shores. She will be standing at my shoulder in Geneva, her torchlight illuminating in the light of freedom all that we do and say there.

I will also be carrying with me another symbol of the human aspiration for freedom. It is a letter -- a full letter -- that is penned on a tiny slip of paper only 2-1/2 inches long and barely an inch in height. The writing is so small and compact it can only be read by a magnifying glass. At the bottom are the signatures of ten women prisoners of a Soviet concentration camp who have undergone inhuman hardships, and who risked their lives smuggling this letter out to me. They wrote to me, they said, because the United States represents the hope that one day there will be freedom throughout the world. I will keep this letter as long as I live, and for the next 5 days I'm going to keep it right here in my breast pocket, close to my heart, and never forget it.

I am looking forward to my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev. There is so much I want to say to him, personally. I want to talk to him about freedom and the hope it brings -- that to shut it out or lock it away is to wall off the avenue to the future for his country. And I want to tell him that the first essential step toward peace and security is to stop fearing his own people, to allow them those self-evident rights of "life and liberty," which are given equally by God to all the people of this Earth.

So on the eve of this Geneva meeting let us pray to our Creator in the knowledge that our faith is our greatest strength. What we do in Geneva, we do in God's sight; what we accomplish, we accomplish only with His blessing.

Thank you very much and God bless you all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

11/4/85

MEMORANDUM

TO: ROBERT MCFARLANE

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

Time reserved for Pre-Geneva events:

MEETING: 11/7/85 - 12:00 m - 60 min - Lunch - Cabinet Room

DATE: 11/14/85 - 1:00 pm - 30 min - Meeting - Cabinet Room
11/16/85 - approx. 8:20 am - 10 min - Departure
Event - East Room

TIME: Time TBD - Arrival Event - Geneva

DURATION:

LOCATION:

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes, for departure and arrival events

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: Yes, in departure and arrival events

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

cc:	K. Barun	J. Hooley
	P. Buchanan	A. Kingon
	D. Chew	J. Kuhn
	E. Crispen	C. McCain
	M. Daniels	B. Oglesby
	T. Dawson	J. Rosebush
	B. Elliott	R. Scouten
	J. Erkenbeck	R. Shaddick
	L. Faulkner	B. Shaddix
	M. Friedersdorf	L. Speakes
	C. Fuller	WHCA Audio/Visual
	W. Henkel	WHCA Operations
	E. Hickey	N. Yates
	C. Hicks	W. Martin

(Gilder)
November 12, 1985
11:30 a.m.

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Thank you very much and God Bless you all.

121

President Reagan's Departure Statement
Andrews Air Force Base - November 16, 1985

Thank you for coming out to see us off on our mission to Geneva.

When I spoke to the Nation on Thursday, I said that I leave for my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev with peace and freedom on my mind. These are the goals to which all Americans -- and the peoples of the Soviet Union themselves -- subscribe. They will be my guiding star in Geneva and beyond.

Despite deep differences I believe it is possible for the United States and the Soviet Union to build more productive relations. I have no illusions that we will be able to resolve all or even most of our differences in a short set of meetings in Geneva. But we must make a start. General Secretary Gorbachev and I should aim to develop a specific work program on a range of issues that affect peace and freedom in the world -- arms control, regional conflicts, human rights, and people-to-people contacts.

We intend to give the Geneva meeting our best shot. We will be firm in defending our interests. We will leave no stone unturned in our search for peace and freedom. Above all, we will be patient. With your prayers and support I am sure we will succeed. Thank you very much and God bless you all.