

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Speechwriting, White House Office of:
Research Office, 1981-1989
Folder Title: 05/30/1988 Visit: Danilov Monastery
(Josh/Carol)
Box: 383

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

X3912

(Gilder/ARD)
May 20, 1988
3:30 p.m. RR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DANILOV MONASTERY
MOSCOW, USSR
MONDAY, MAY 30, 1988

It is a very great pleasure to visit this beautiful monastery and have a chance to meet some of the people who have helped make its return to the Russian Orthodox Church a reality. I am also addressing in spirit the 35 million believers whose personal contributions made this magnificent restoration possible.

It has been said that an icon is a window between heaven and Earth through which the believing eye can peer into the beyond. One cannot look at the magnificent icons created and re-created here under the direction of Father Zinon without experiencing the deep faith that lives in the hearts of the people of this land.

Like the saints and martyrs depicted in these icons, the faith of your people has been tested and tempered in the crucible of hardship, but in that suffering it has grown strong, ready now to embrace with new hope the beginnings of a second Christian millennium.

We, in our country, share this hope for a new age of religious freedom in the Soviet Union; we share the hope that this monastery is not an end in itself, but the symbol of a new policy of religious tolerance that will extend to all peoples of all faiths.

We pray that the return of this monastery signals a willingness to return to believers the thousands of other houses

ok
see
comments
on NSC
draft

ok
father
Victor
Potapov,
Russian
Orthodox
Priest
755-4232

ok
see
comments
by NSC

of worship, which are now closed, boarded-up, or used for secular purposes.

There are many ties of faith that bind your country and mine. We have in America many churches, many creeds, that feel a special kinship with their fellow believers here: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Orthodox, and Islamic -- they are united with believers in this country in many ways, especially in prayer.

Our people feel it keenly when religious freedom is denied to anyone, anywhere, and hope with you that soon all the many Soviet religious communities that are now prevented from registering, or banned altogether -- including the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches -- will soon be able to practice their religion freely and openly and instruct their children, in and outside the home, in the fundamentals of their faith.

We don't know if this first thaw will be followed by a resurgent spring of religious liberty; we don't know, but we may hope. We may hope that "perestroika" will be accompanied by a deeper restructuring, a deeper conversion -- a metanoia, a change in heart; and that "glasnost," which means "giving voice," will also let loose a new chorus of belief, singing praise to the God that gave us life.

There's a beautiful passage that I'd just like to read if I may. It's from one of this country's great writers and believers, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, about the faith that is as elemental to this land as the dark and fertile soil:

"When you travel the byroads of Central Russia you begin to understand the secret of the pacifying Russian countryside.

OK
Cathy
Chumachenko
Human Rights
Bureau
Dept. of
State

→ Greek
New Testament

→ O.K.
Cathy
Chumachenko
State
Dept.

"It is in the churches... they lift their bell towers -- graceful, shapely, all different -- high over mundane timber and thatch... from villages that are cut off and invisible to each other they soar to the same heaven....

"People were always selfish and often unkind. But the evening chimes used to ring out, floating over the villages, fields, and woods. Reminding men that they must abandon trivial concerns of this world, and give time and thought to eternity."

In our prayers, we may keep that image in mind, the thought that the bells may ring again, sounding throughout Moscow and across the countryside, clamoring for joy in their new found freedom.

Well, I've talked long enough. I'm sure you have many questions, many things on your minds. I know I have many questions to ask you.

check this see D'S.

A. Solzhenitsyn, "Along the Oka," Encounter, 1965, Mar 8-9. This & other short sketches printed in the issue had not been published in the USSR.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Carol

DATE: 5/16/88

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

COB 5/18/88

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH MONKS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOBBS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIBB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRISCOM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan's office with an info copy to my office by close of business Wednesday, May 18, 1988. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

May 18, 1988

TO: TONY DOLAN

NSC staff concurs with changes marked.

Paul Schott Stevens
Paul Schott Stevens
Executive Secretary

cc: Rhett Dawson

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

(Gilder/ARD)

May 16, 1988

3:00 p.m.

Received SS

1988 MAY 16 PM 3:58

Article

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ~~(MEETING WITH MONKS)~~
DANILOV MONASTERY
MONDAY, MAY 30, 1988

No monks

It is a very great pleasure to visit this beautiful monastery and have a chance to meet ^{Some of the people who have helped make it} ~~and speak with you, the~~ ^{a reality. I am} ~~return to~~ ~~present and future leaders of~~ the Russian Orthodox Church ~~in the~~ ^{also addressing in spirit the 35 million believers whose personal contributions} ~~Soviet Union~~ made this magnificent restoration possible.

*May not be there
press hat
ate didn't
to fit!*

It has been said that an icon is a window between heaven and earth through which the believing eye can peer into the beyond.

One can not look at the ^{magnificent icons created and re-created here under the} ~~icon paintings of Zinov without feeling~~ ^{direction of Father Zinov without experiencing} the deep faith that lives in the hearts of the people of this land.

Like the saints and martyrs depicted in ^{these} ~~many of the~~ icons, the faith of your people has been tested and tempered in the crucible of hardship, but in that suffering it has grown strong, ready now to embrace with ^{beginnings of a Christian} ~~a~~ new hope the ^{second} ~~millennium~~ ^{Christianity in Kievan-Rus}

State fix

We, in our country, share this hope for a new age of religious freedom in the Soviet Union; we share the hope that this monastery ^{may become} ~~is not an end in itself, but~~ the symbol of a new policy of religious tolerance that will extend to all peoples of all faiths.

*No!
Pete
Radman*

We pray that the return of this monastery signals a willingness to return to believers the thousands of other houses of worship, which are now closed, boarded up, or used for secular purposes.

There are many ties of faith that bind your country and mine. We have in America many churches, many creeds, that feel a special kinship with their fellow believers here: Protestant, ~~(Mormon)~~ Jewish, ~~(Islamic)~~ ^{Islamic} Roman Catholic, and ~~Orthodox~~ -- they are united with believers in this country in many ways, especially in prayer.

Our people feel it keenly when religious freedom is denied to anyone, anywhere, ~~(any of their brethren in the Soviet Union)~~ and hope with you that soon all the many ^{Soviet} religious communities that are now prevented from registering, or banned altogether -- including the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches -- will soon be able to practice their religion freely and openly and instruct their children, in and outside the home, in the fundamentals of their faith.

We don't know if this first thaw will be followed by a resurgent spring of religious liberty; we don't know, but we may hope. We may hope that "perestroika" will be accompanied by a deeper restructuring, a deeper conversion -- ~~(a metanoia)~~ a change ⁱⁿ ~~of the~~ heart; and that "glasnost," which means "giving voice," will also let loose a new chorus of belief, singing praise to the God that gave us life.

There's a beautiful passage that I'd just like to read if I may. It's from one of this country's great writers and believers, ^{Alexander Solzhenitsyn,} about the faith that is as elemental to this land as the dark and fertile soil:

"When you travel the byroads of Central Russia you begin to understand the secret of the pacifying Russian countryside.

N.B. State would like to drop Solzhenitsyn quote, saying he (and these remarks) will be viewed as too Russian nationalist by non-Russians. NSC staff thinks the quote is fine.

Reorder as per relative size in US. (May not be Mormon in USSR)

Is this a known Russian word?

Why not say it straight out?

OK. Voices to proclaim something

"It is in the churches.. they lift their bell towers -- graceful, shapely, all different -- high over mundane timber and thatch... from villages that are cut off and invisible to each other they soar to the same heaven....

"People were always selfish and often unkind. But the evening chimes used to ring out, floating over the villages fields, and woods. Reminding men that they must abandon trivial concerns of this world, and give time and thought to eternity."

In our prayers, we may keep that image in mind, the thought that the bells may ring again, sounding throughout Moscow and across the countryside, clamoring for joy in their new found freedom.

Well, I've talked long enough. I'm sure you have many questions, many things on your minds. I know I have many questions to ask you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

April 14, 1988

TO: FREDERICK J. RYAN, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND
SCHEDULING

FROM: REBECCA G. RANGE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
PUBLIC LIAISON

REQUEST: For the President to address the opening
session of the World Gas Conference of the
International Gas Union.

PURPOSE: Given the dates of the conference, this group
may provide an appropriate forum for a
post-Summit address on the accomplishments of
the Summit.

BACKGROUND: The Conference is a triennial event sponsored
by the International Gas Union, located in
Paris. The I.G.U. was founded over 50 years
ago as an international organization to share
technical and economic information about the
development and utilization of natural gas.
The Conference this year is being hosted by
the American Gas Association in Washington,
D.C.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: None.

DATE & TIME: June 5-7, 1988
Time: TBD

LOCATION: Sheraton Washington Hotel
Washington, D.C.

PARTICIPANTS: 3500 individuals from 45 Eastern and Western
nations.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: TBD

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be provided by Speechwriting.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Open.

PROJECT OFFICER: Mary McGeein Schnepfer

CH.

Letter J
x 3912

(Gilder/ARD)
May 16, 1988
3:00 p.m. 55

5
minutes

Priests
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH ~~MONKS~~
DANILOV MONASTERY
MONDAY, MAY 30, 1988

It is a very great pleasure to visit this beautiful
monastery and have a chance to meet and speak with you, the
present and future leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church in the
Soviet Union.

Father
Potapov
V.O.A.
755-
4232
It has been said that an icon is a window between heaven and
earth through which the believing eye can peer into the beyond.
One can not look at the icon paintings of Zinon without feeling
the deep faith that lives in the hearts of the people of this
land.

Like the saints and martyrs depicted in many of the icons,
the faith of your people has been tested and tempered in the
crucible of hardship, but in that suffering it has grown strong,
ready now to embrace with a new hope the second millennium of
Christianity in Kievan-Rus.

We, in our country, share this hope for a new age of
religious freedom in the Soviet Union; we share the hope that
this monastery is not an end in itself, but the symbol of a new
policy of religious tolerance that will extend to all peoples of
all faiths.

We pray that the return of this monastery signals a
willingness to return to believers the thousands of other houses
of worship, which are now closed, boarded up, or used for secular
purposes.

There are many ties of faith that bind your country and mine. We have in America many churches, many creeds, that feel a special kinship with their fellow believers here: Protestant, Mormon, Jewish, Islamic, ~~Roman~~ Catholic, and Orthodox -- they are united with believers in this country in many ways, especially in prayer.

none

Our people feel it keenly when religious freedom is denied any of their brethren in the Soviet Union and hope with you that soon all the many religious communities that are now prevented from registering, or banned altogether -- including the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches -- will soon be able to practice their religion freely and openly and instruct their children, in and outside the home, in the fundamentals of their faith.

We don't know if this first thaw will be followed by a resurgent spring of religious liberty; we don't know, but we may hope. We may hope that "perestroika" will be accompanied by a deeper restructuring, a deeper conversion -- a metanoia, a change of the heart; and that glasnost, which means "giving voice," will also let loose a new chorus of belief, singing praise to the God that gave us life.

There's a beautiful passage that I'd just like to read if I may. It's from one of this country's great writers and believers, about the faith that is as elemental to this land as the dark and fertile soil:

"When you travel the byroads of Central Russia you begin to understand the secret of the pacifying Russian countryside.

See 9com
+ all
P. 581

"It is in the churches.. they lift their bell towers -- graceful, shapely, all different -- high over mundane timber and thatch... from villages that are cut off and invisible to each other they soar to the same heaven....

"People were always selfish and often unkind. But the evening chimes used to ring out, floating over the villages fields, and woods. Reminding men that they must abandon trivial concerns of this world, and give time and thought to eternity."

In our prayers, we may keep that image in mind, the thought that the bells may ring again, sounding throughout Moscow and across the countryside, clamoring for joy in their new found freedom.

Well, I've talked long enough. I'm sure you have many questions, many things on your minds. I know I have many questions to ask you.

Carol

(Gilder)
May 16, 1988
12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH MONKS
DANILOV MONASTERY
MONDAY, MAY 30, 1988

It is a very great pleasure to visit this beautiful monastery and have a chance to meet and speak with you, the present and future leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Soviet Union.

It has been said that an icon is a window between heaven and earth, through which the believing eye can peer into the beyond. One can not look at the icon paintings of Zinon without feeling the deep faith that lives in the hearts of the people of this land.

Like the saints and martyrs depicted in many of the icons, the faith of your people has been tested and tempered in the crucible of hardship, but in that suffering it has grown strong, ready now to embrace the second millennium of Christianity in this land with a new hope.

We, in our country, share that hope for a new age of religious freedom in the Soviet Union; we share the hope that this monastery is not an end in itself, but the symbol of a new policy of religious tolerance that will extend to all peoples of all faiths.

We pray that the return of this monastery signals a willingness to return the thousands of other houses of worship -- which are now closed, boarded up, or used for secular purposes -- back to the control of believers.

There are many ties of faith that bind your country and mine. We have in America many churches, many creeds, that feel a special kinship with their fellow believers here: Protestant, Mormon, Jewish, Islamic, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox -- they are united with believers in this country in many ways, especially in prayer.

Our people feel keenly the denial of religious freedom for their brethren in the Soviet Union; and hope with you that soon all the many religious communities that are now prevented from registering, or banned altogether -- including the Ukrainain Catholic and Orthodox churches -- will soon be able to practice their religion freely and openly and instruct their children, in and outside the home, in the fundamentals of their faith.

We don't know if this first thaw will be followed by a resurgent spring of religious liberty; we don't know, but we may hope. We may hope that "perestroika" will be accompanied by a deeper restructuring, a deeper conversion -- a metanoia, a change of the heart; and that glasnost, which means "giving voice" will also let loose a new chorus of belief, singing praise to the God that gave us life.

There's a beautiful passage that I'd just like to read if I may. It's from one of this country's great writers and believers, about the faith that is as elemental to this land as the dark and fertile soil:

When you travel the byroads of Central Russia you begin to understand the secret of the pacifying Russian countryside.

It is in the churches.. they lift their bell towers -- graceful, shapely, all different -- high over mundane timber and thatch... from villages that are cut off and invisible to each other they soar to the same heaven....

People were always selfish and often unkind. But the evening chimes used to ring out, floating over the villages fields, and woods. Reminding men that they must abandon trivial concerns of this world, and give time and thought to eternity.

Well, I've talked long enough. I'm sure you have many questions, many things on your minds. I know I have many questions to ask you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1988

HAYES

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY DOLAN

FROM

JIM HOOLE *JH*

SUBJECT

REMARKS: MEETING WITH MONKS

Tony, the meeting with Monks was not envisioned as one at which the President would deliver actual remarks from a lecturn. Rather, it was planned that he would sit down in a "chairs in a circle" type of meeting and make some comments, ask a few questions, and try to evoke a response from the monks.

You may have had discussions with Tom in which he indicated that he would like the President to open up with a little more formal presentation than impromptu remarks. If so, the remarks drafted may be very appropriate. I'll check with Tom, and I'll assume you will, too.

For further guidance and suggestions as to talking points and possible questions for the President to ask, I refer you to a memorandum from Mark Ramee, political counselor at our embassy in Moscow, which I forwarded to your office and to Agnes Waldron a few weeks ago.

cc: T. Griscom
R. Dawson
M. Batjer

CAROL

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 17, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY DOLAN

FROM

JIM HOOLE *Jim*

SUBJECT

REMARKS TO SELECTED SOVIET CITIZENS

Tony, the remarks Peter wrote are great; but he may have the scenario out of order. The President will be speaking after he has chatted casually with some of the group at his table, and after three or four of the group have made remarks to him in behalf of the group. Therefore, the end line is not appropriate.

As with the case of the Monks meeting, which I referred to in a separate memo, we are flexible on this. If Tom and you think that it serves the President better to re-arrange the format, it is an easy thing to do at this point. Let's talk to Tom.

cc: T. Griscom
R. Dawson