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(NSC/Elliott)
November 7, 1985
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ADDRESS TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE
VOICE OF AMERICA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1985

My fellow Americans, we're expanding the format of our radio broadcast today. During the next 10 minutes, I'll be speaking to ~~the Russian people~~ ^{citizens of the Soviet Union} over the Voice of America about the upcoming Geneva Summit. ~~My words will be directed to them,~~ ^{My speech is being broadcast to over 50 nations by the Worldnet Television network.} but I want you to hear what I say. ~~My words will be directed to them,~~ ^{and to the citizens of the Soviet Union} ~~My words will be directed to them,~~ ^{Television network,}

Good evening, this is Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, speaking to you from Washington. I'd like to speak about my upcoming meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva and my hopes for a better relationship between our two governments.

Your leaders can freely appear on American radio and television, and be interviewed by our magazines and newspapers. So I was grateful for my recent and -- as you know -- rare ~~the Soviet Union~~ ^{the Soviet} opportunity to speak with representatives of your press -- the first time in 24 years such an interview has taken place. But the interview was published only in ~~Izvestia~~ ^{Izvestia}, and unfortunately there were serious omissions.

So I wish to speak to you personally, not only as President and proud citizen of America, but also as a husband, father, and grandfather who shares your deepest hopes -- that all our children can live and prosper in a world of peace.

I grew up in a small town in America's heartland, where values of faith in God, freedom, family, friends, and concern for one's neighbors were shared by all, values you also share. My

family was not wealthy and I worked as a lifeguard and in construction labor. Then I became a radio broadcaster, before going to Hollywood where I was elected head of our professional actors guild. I've always been proud to say I'm the only American President who was also president of a labor union.

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Now, I know that much has been written in your press about America's hostile intentions toward you. I reject these distortions. Americans are a peace-loving people; we do not threaten your nation and never will. The American people are tolerant, slow to anger, but staunch in defense of their liberties and, like you, their country.

More than once, we have joined to oppose a common enemy. During our war for independence, Russia provided assistance to the distant American colonists. A century-and-a-half later, we joined together to defeat the common enemy of Fascism.

Even before we entered that war, America was supplying massive quantities of food and equipment to those fighting the Nazis. We provided 14,795 aircraft to your forces, 7,056 tanks, more than half a million vehicles, and more than 6 million tons of food and other staples. I'm told one can ^{occasionally} ~~still~~ see some old Studebakers in Russian streets.

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Americans fought for 4 years on all fronts and many lie buried in Northern Africa, Europe, Burma, China, the Pacific islands, and at the bottom of the sea. Some are buried on ~~Soviet~~ ^{set} soil -- in the Hero City of Murmansk, where they had brought precious supplies through the treacherous convoy route.

Yet, after that victory, Americans gave generously to help rebuild wartorn countries, even to former enemies, because we had made war on a vicious ideology, not on a people. And we demonstrated our desire for peace by rapidly demobilizing. At the end of 1945, we had an armed force of almost 12 million; by 1948, we had reduced that number to less than 1.5 million.

Immediately after World War II, when we were the only country with nuclear weapons, we proposed giving those weapons up altogether to an international authority so that no country would have such destructive power at its disposal. What a pity this idea was not accepted.

Today, we must both face the challenge of eliminating nuclear weapons. I have said many times, and will say again to you: a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. I

pray God that we can rid the world of these dangerous weapons, in part by finding a reliable defense against them.

Our negotiators in Geneva are working hard to reach a break-through. I am pleased that the Soviet Union finally responded to our original proposals. We studied the response carefully and replied quickly. These are complicated negotiations and satisfactory results will take long, hard work.

Let me be clear about our research and testing program on strategic defense technologies. Our goal is to make the world safer through development of non-nuclear security shields that would protect people by preventing weapons from reaching their targets and, hopefully, render nuclear weapons obsolete. You should be aware that your own government has been conducting long-standing and extensive programs on its own defensive systems, including advanced research.

For our part, the United States is just beginning a long process of investigating defenses. Another President will have to make the decision on whether to deploy. But if it were me, and our research and testing were successful, I would try to convince the Soviet Union to join us in taking a great step forward -- toward defenses that would offer the entire world an insurance policy and threaten no one.

We must live together in peace. America's whole history has been a search for peace and opportunity by pioneers seeking freedom, many from the old European order. We are proud of the Russians, the Ukrainians, the Jews, the Armenians, and many others who sailed by our Statue of Liberty and reached our shores.

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As the world's two strongest nations, we owe it to the rest of humanity not only to keep our word, but to help find peaceful settlements to local and regional conflicts -- in Afghanistan, Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere.

We must also join forces against terrorism. There is no place in a civilized world for assassinations, terrorist bombings, and other mindless violence. I strongly urge you and your government to join us in combatting terrorism and ensuring that no country will offer succor or comfort to terrorists.

We have much to learn from each other. Americans have long been enriched by your cultural giants. The works of Tolstoy, ^{Chekov and} Dostoevsky, Turgenev, ~~and Chingis Aitmatov~~ Pasternak, ^{and Chingis Aitmatov} are taught in many American universities. Just as American authors from James Fenimore Cooper, Mark Twain and Jack London, to Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner are popular in your country.

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For our part, the United States is just beginning a long process of investigating defenses. ~~Another President will have~~

If & when our research proves that a defensive shield to make the decision on whether to deploy. But if it were me, against nuclear missiles is feasible, it is my intention and our research and testing were successful, I would try to I believe our 2 nations & those others who have nuclear convince the Soviet Union to join us in taking a great step weapons should come together and agree to eliminate our forward toward defenses that would offer the entire world an offensive nuclear weapons in return for which we insurance policy and threaten no one. would make our defensive system available to all,

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We must also join forces against terrorism. There is no place in a civilized world for assassinations, terrorist bombings, and other mindless violence. I strongly urge you and your government to join us in combatting terrorism and ensuring that no country will offer succor or comfort to terrorists.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 11/7/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: --SUBJECT: RADIO TALK: ADDRESS TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE - VOA
(November 7 - 6:30 pm draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	OGLESBY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☒			
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	SVAHN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☐	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HENKEL	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☒	☒
HICKS	☐	☐		☐	☐
KINGON	☐	☐		☐	☐
LACY	☐	☐		☐	☐
McFARLANE	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

(NSC/Elliott)
November 7, 1985
6:30 p.m.

Received 83

NOV -7 PM 6:48

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(NSC/Elliott)
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6:30 p.m.

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So I wish to speak to you personally, not only as President and proud citizen of America, but also as a husband, father, and grandfather who shares your deepest hopes -- that all our children can live and prosper in a world of peace.

I grew up in a small town in America's heartland, where values of faith in God, freedom, family, friends, and concern for one's neighbors were shared by all, values you also share. My

family was not wealthy and I worked as a lifeguard and in construction labor. Then I became a radio broadcaster, before going to Hollywood where I was elected head of our professional actors guild. I've always been proud to be the only American President who was also president of a labor union.

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Now, I know that much has been written in your press about America's hostile intentions toward you. I must disagree with this. Americans are a peace-loving people; we do not threaten your nation and never will. The American people are tolerant, slow to anger, but staunch in defense of their liberties, and, like you, their country. ~~Almost unique among great nations, the United States and the Soviet Union have never gone to war against each other. I pray God we never will.~~

More than once, we have joined to oppose a common enemy. During our war for independence, Russia provided assistance to the distant American colonists. A century-and-a-half later, we joined together to defeat the common enemy of Fascism.

Even before we entered that war, America was supplying massive quantities of food and equipment to those fighting the Nazis. We provided ~~over~~ 14,795 aircraft to your forces, ~~nearly~~ 7,056 tanks, more than half a million vehicles, and more than

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Americans fought for 4 years on all fronts and many lie buried in Northern Africa, Europe, Burma, China, the Pacific islands, and at the bottom of the sea. Some are buried on Soviet soil -- in the Hero City of Murmansk, where they had brought precious supplies through the treacherous convoy route.

Yet after that victory, Americans gave generously to help rebuild wartorn countries, even to former enemies, because we had made war on a vicious ideology, not on a people. And we demonstrated our desire for peace by rapidly demobilizing. At the end of 1945, we had an armed force of almost 12 million; by 1948, we had reduced that number to less than 1.5 million.

Immediately after World War II, when we were the only country with nuclear weapons, we proposed giving those weapons up altogether to an international authority, so that no country would have such destructive power at its disposal. What a pity this idea was not accepted.

Today, we must both face the challenge of eliminating nuclear weapons. I have said many times, and will say again to

you: a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. I want nothing more than to rid the world of these dangerous weapons, in part by finding a reliable defense against them.

Our negotiators in Geneva are working hard to reach a break-through. I am pleased that the Soviet Union responded to our original proposals. We studied the response carefully, and replied quickly. These are complicated negotiations and satisfactory results will take long, hard work.

Let me be clear about our research and testing program on defensive systems. Our goal is to make the world safer through development of non-nuclear survival shields that would protect people, and hopefully render nuclear weapons obsolete, by preventing weapons from reaching their targets. You should be aware that your own government has been conducting long-standing and extensive research on its own defensive systems.

For our part, the United States is just beginning a long road toward defensive deployments. Another President will have to make that decision, but if I were he, I would try to convince the Soviet Union to join us in taking a great step forward with defensive deployments -- deployments that offer an insurance policy and threaten no one.

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God bless you.

*Boris
Chernomir*

(NSC/Elliott)
November 7, 1985
1:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ADDRESS TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE
VOICE OF AMERICA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1985

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