(NSC redraft)
November 13, 1985
2:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

My fellow Americans. Good evening. In 48 hours, I will be leaving for Geneva for the first meeting between an American President and a Soviet leader in 6 years. I know that you and the people of the world are looking forward to that meeting with great interest, so tonight I want to share with you my hopes and to tell you why I am going to Geneva.

My mission, stated simply, is a mission for peace. It is to engage the new Soviet leader in what I hope will be a dialogue for peace that endures beyond my Presidency. It is to sit down across from Mr. Gorbachev and try to map out, together, a basis for peaceful discourse even though our disagreements on fundamentals will not change.

It is my fervent hope that the two of us can begin a process which our successors and our peoples can continue: facing our differences frankly and openly, and beginning to narrow and resolve them; communicating effectively so that our actions and intentions are not misunderstood; and eliminating the barriers between us and cooperating wherever possible for the greater good of all.

This meeting can be an historic opportunity to set a steady, more constructive course through the 21st century.

The history of American-Soviet relations, however, does not augur well for euphoria. Eight of my predecessors -- each in his own way in his own time -- sought to achieve a more stable and

peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union. None fully succeeded. So I don't underestimate the difficulty of the task ahead. But these sad chapters do not relieve me of the obligation to try to make this a safer, better world. For our children, our grandchildren, for all mankind -- I intend to make the effort. And it is with your prayers, and God's help, I hope to succeed.

Success at the summit, however, should not be measured by any short-term agreements that may be signed. Only the passage of time will tell us whether we constructed a durable bridge to a safer world.

This, then, is why I go to Geneva. To build a foundation for lasting peace.

When we speak of peace, we should not mean just the absence of war. True peace rests on the pillars of individual freedom, human rights, national self-determination, and respect for the rule of law. Building a safer future requires that we address candidly all the issues which divide us, and not just focus on one or two issues, important as they may be. When we meet in Geneva, our agenda will seek not just to avoid war, but to strengthen peace, prevent confrontation, and remove the sources of tension. We should seek to reduce the suspicions and mistrust that have led us to acquire mountains of strategic weapons.

Since the dawn of the nuclear age, every American President has sought to limit and end the dangerous competition in nuclear arms. I have no higher priority than to finally realize that

dream. I've said before, and will say again, a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

We have gone the extra mile in arms control, but our offers have not always been welcome.

In 1977, and again in 1981, the United States proposed to the Soviet Union deep reciprocal cuts in strategic forces. These offers were rejected, out-of-hand. The following year, we proposed the complete elimination of a whole category of intermediate range nuclear forces. Two years later, we proposed a treaty for a global ban on chemical weapons. In 1983, the Soviet Union got up and walked out of the Geneva arms control negotiations altogether. They did this in protest because we and our European allies had begun to deploy nuclear weapons as a counter to Soviet SS-20's aimed at European cities.

I am pleased now, however, with the interest expressed in reducing offensive weapons by the new Soviet leadership. Let me repeat tonight what I announced last week: the United States is prepared to reduce comparable nuclear weapons by 50 percent. We seek reductions that would result in a stable balance between us -- with no first strike capability -- and verified, full compliance.

If we both reduce the weapons of war there would be no losers, only winners. And the whole world would benefit if we could both abandon these weapons altogether and move to non-nuclear defensive systems which ~~threaten no one~~ destroy weapons, not people.

The United States has begun research and testing on new defense technologies that can make the world safer. We seek to develop a security shield that would protect people by preventing

weapons from reaching their targets, and that, hopefully, might one day render these awesome weapons of destruction obsolete.

The Soviet Union has been conducting long-standing and extensive research on its own defensive systems. How much better for all mankind if we and the Soviets, together, could find a way out of the prison of ~~mutual terror~~ deterrence through massive retaliation -- a prison in which both our nations have been confined since the advent of the atomic age.

How much better if we could come together and work for a future in which ~~we~~ nations relied less and less on ~~destructive,~~ offensive systems, and more and more on defensive systems that threaten no one.

But nuclear arms control is not of itself a final answer. ~~As~~ I ~~reminded~~ told the editors of Pravda and Izvestia 2 weeks ago, that nations do not distrust each other because they are armed. They arm themselves because they distrust each other. The use of force, subversion, and terror ~~that~~ has made the world a more dangerous place.

Thus, today, there is no peace in Afghanistan; no peace in Cambodia; no peace in Angola, Ethiopia, or Nicaragua. These wars have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and threaten to spill over national frontiers.

That is why in my address to the United Nations I proposed a way to end these conflicts, a regional peace plan that calls for ~~ceasefires,~~ negotiations among the warring parties, withdrawal of all foreign troops, democratic reconciliation, and economic assistance.

Four times in my lifetime our soldiers have been sent overseas to fight in foreign lands. Their remains can be found from Flanders Fields to the islands of the Western Pacific. Not once were those young men sent abroad in the cause of conquest. Not once did they come home claiming a single square inch of some other country as a trophy of war.

A great danger in the past, however, has been the failure by our enemies to remember that while we Americans detest war, we love freedom -- and stand ready to sacrifice for it, as we have done four times in my lifetime. We love freedom not only because it is practical and beautiful, but because it is morally right and just.

In advancing freedom, we Americans carry a special burden. A belief in the dignity of man in the sight of the God Who gave birth to this country, -- This is central to our being. By A century-and-a-half ago, Thomas Jefferson told the world, "[T]he mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs." Freedom is America's core. We must never deny it, nor forsake it. Should the day come when we Americans remain silent in the face of armed aggression, then the cause of America -- the cause of freedom -- will have been lost, and the great heart of this country will have been broken.

This affirmation of freedom is not only our duty as Americans, it is essential for success at Geneva.

Freedom and democracy are the best guarantors of peace. History has shown that democratic nations do not start wars. The rights of the individual and the rule of law are as fundamental to peace as arms control. A government which does not respect its citizens' rights and its international commitments to protect

those rights is not likely to respect its other international undertakings.

That is why we must and will speak in Geneva on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. We are not trying to impose our beliefs on others. We have a right to expect, however, that great states will live up to their international obligations.

Despite our deep and abiding differences we can and must prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence. We can find as yet undiscovered avenues where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind. And this, too, is why I am going to Geneva.

Enduring peace requires openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly.

The U.S. has always stood for openness. Thirty years ago in Geneva, President Eisenhower, preparing for his first meeting with the then Soviet leader, made his Open Skies proposal and an offer of new educational and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union. He recognized that removing the barriers between people is at the heart of our relationship. He said:

"Restrictions on communications of all kinds, including radio and travel, existing in extreme form in some places, have operated as causes of mutual distrust. In America, the fervent belief in freedom of thought, of expression, and of movement is a vital part of our heritage."

foundation for peace. It is not an impossible dream that our children and grandchildren can some day travel freely back and forth between America and the Soviet Union, visit each other's homes, work and study together, enjoy and discuss plays, music, television, and root for teams when they compete.

These, then, are the indispensable elements of a true peace: the steady expansion of human rights for all the world's peoples; support for resolving conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America that carry the seeds of a wider war; a broadening of people-to-people exchanges that can diminish the distrust and suspicion that separate our two peoples. Lastly, the steady reduction of these awesome nuclear arsenals -- until they no longer threaten the world we both must inhabit. This is our agenda for Geneva; this is our policy; this is our plan for peace.

We have cooperated in the past. In both world wars, Americans and Russians fought on separate fronts against a common enemy. Near the City of Murmansk, sons of our own nation are buried, heroes who died of wounds sustained on the treacherous North Atlantic and North Sea convoys that carried to Russia the indispensable tools of survival and victory.

So, while it would be naive to think a single summit can establish a permanent peace, this conference can begin a dialogue for peace.

So we look to the future with optimism, and we go to Geneva with confidence.

Both Nancy and I are grateful for the chance you have given us to serve this nation and the trust you have placed in us. I know how deep the hope of peace is in her heart, as it is in the heart of every American and Russian mother.

I received a letter and picture from one such mother in Louisiana recently. She wrote, Mr. President, How could anyone be more blessed than I? These children you see ~~enclosed in this envelope~~ are mine, granted to me by the Lord for a short time.... When you go to Geneva, please remember these faces...remember the faces of my children, of Jonathan (my son), and of my twins, Lara (from Dr. Zhivago -- a Russian story) and Jessica. Their future may depend on your actions. I will pray for guidance for you and the Soviet leaders.

Her words, my children, read like a ~~declaration~~ cry of love. And I could only think, how that cry has echoed down through the centuries, a cry for all the children of the world, for peace, for love of fellowman.

Here is the central truth of our time, of any time, a truth to which I have tried to bear witness in this office.

When I first accepted the nomination of my party, I asked you, the American people, to join with me in prayer for our nation and the world. Six days ago, in the Cabinet Room, religious leaders from across our country -- Russian and Greek Orthodox bishops, Catholic Cardinals and Protestant pastors, Mormon elders and Jewish Rabbis, together made of me a similar request.

(NSC redraft)
November 12, 1985
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

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It is my fervent hope that the two of us can begin a process which our successors and our peoples can continue: a process of facing our differences frankly and openly and beginning to narrow and resolve them; a process of communicating effectively so that our actions and intentions are not misunderstood; a process of building bridges between us and cooperating wherever possible for the greater good of all.

This meeting can be an historic opportunity to set a steady, more constructive course through the 21st century.

The history of American-Soviet relations, however, does not augur well for euphoria. Eight of my predecessors -- each in his own way in his own time -- sought to achieve a more stable and

peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union. None fully succeeded. So I ~~do not~~ DON'T underestimate the difficulty of the task ahead. But these sad chapters do not relieve me of the obligation ~~to use my years as President, and the capacities God has given me~~, to try to make ~~our~~ THIS a safer, better world. For our children, our grandchildren, for all mankind -- I intend to make the effort. And it is with your prayers, and God's ~~guidance~~ HELP, ~~that~~ I hope to succeed.

Success at the summit, however, should not be measured by any short-term agreements that may be signed. Only the passage of time will tell us whether we constructed a durable bridge to a safer world.

This, then, is why I go to Geneva. To build a foundation for lasting peace.

When we speak of peace, ~~however~~, we ~~do not~~ SHOULD NOT mean just the absence of war. ~~We mean the~~ True peace ~~that~~ rests on the pillars of individual freedom, human rights, national self-determination, and respect for the rule of law. ~~History has shown us that peace is indivisible~~. Building a safer future requires that we address candidly all the issues which divide us, and not just ~~to~~ focus on one or two issues, important as they may be. ~~Thus~~, When we meet in Geneva, our agenda will seek:

-- not just to avoid war, but to strengthen peace;

-- ~~not just to~~ prevent confrontation, ~~but to~~ AND remove the sources of tension; WE SHOULD SEEK TO REDUCE THE SUSPICIONS & MISTRUST THAT HAVE LED US TO ACQUIRE MOUNTAINS OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

-- ~~not just to paper over differences, but to~~ address them;

-- ~~not just to talk about what our citizens want, but to let them talk to each other~~.

Since the dawn of the nuclear age, every American President has sought to limit and end the dangerous competition in nuclear arms. I have no higher priority than to finally realize that dream. I've said before, and will say again, a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

We have gone the extra mile in arms control, but our offers have not always been welcome.

In 1977, and again in 1981, the United States proposed to the Soviet Union deep reciprocal cuts in strategic forces. These offers were rejected, out-of-hand. The following year, we proposed the complete elimination of a whole category of [redacted] intermediate range nuclear forces. Two years later we proposed a treaty for a global ban on chemical weapons. In 1983, the Soviet Union got up and walked out of the Geneva arms control negotiations altogether. THEY DID THIS IN PROTEST BECAUSE [redacted] NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A COUNTER TO SOVIET SS20's AIMED AT EUROPEAN

I am pleased, now, however, with the interest expressed in reducing offensive weapons by the new Soviet leadership. Let me repeat tonight what I announced last week: the United States is prepared to reduce comparable nuclear weapons by 50 percent. We seek reductions that would result in a stable balance between us -- with no first strike capability -- and full compliance.

If we both reduce the weapons of war there would be no losers, only winners. And the whole world would benefit if we could both ~~find a way to~~ abandon these weapons altogether and move to non-nuclear defensive systems which threaten no one.

Add ¶ on SAI.

(See below)

U.N. + radio address

How much better for all mankind if we and the Soviets, together, could find a way out of the prison of mutual terror in which both our nations have been confined since the advent of the atomic age.

The United States has begun research and testing on new defense technologies that can make the world safer. We seek to develop a security shield that would protect people by preventing weapons from reaching their targets, and that hopefully, might one day render these awesome weapons of destruction obsolete. The Soviet Union has ~~been~~ ~~conducting~~ long-standing and extensive research on its own defensive systems.

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Thus, ~~today,~~ there is no peace in Afghanistan; no peace in Cambodia; no peace in Angola~~,~~ ~~no peace in~~ Ethiopia~~,~~ ~~and no peace~~ OR ~~in~~ Nicaragua. These wars have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and threaten to spill over national frontiers.

That is why in my address to the United Nations I proposed a way to end these conflicts, a regional peace plan that calls for -- ceasefires, negotiations among the warring parties, withdrawal of all foreign troops, democratic reconciliation, and economic assistance.

I made that proposal in the hope of never again having to phone the parents of American servicemen killed in action or cut down in some terrorist attack -- in the hope of never having to face the terrible alternative of submitting to blackmail or responding with a call to arms.

delete or more

Four times in ~~this century~~ MY LIFETIME our soldiers have been sent overseas to fight in foreign lands. Their remains can be found from Flanders Fields to the islands of the Western Pacific. Not once were those ~~soldiers~~ YOUNG MEN sent abroad in the cause of conquest. Not once did they come home claiming a single square inch of some other country as a trophy of war.

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In advancing freedom we Americans carry a special burden. A belief in the dignity of man in the sight of God gave birth to this country. It is central to our being. "The mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs," Thomas Jefferson told the world a century and a half ago. Freedom is America's core. We must never deny it, nor forsake it. Should the day come when we Americans remain silent in the face of armed aggression, then the cause of America -- the cause of freedom -- will have been lost, and the great heart of this country will have been broken.

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shortening of OPEN WORLD MATERIAL

Despite our deep and abiding differences we can and must ~~manage this historic conflict peacefully. We can and must~~ prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence. We can find as yet undiscovered avenues where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind. And this, too, is why I am going to Geneva.

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"Restrictions on communications of all kinds, including radio and travel, existing in extreme form in some places, have operated as causes of mutual distrust. In America, the fervent belief in freedom of thought, of expression, and of movement is a vital part of our heritage."

I HAVE HOPES THAT WE CAN ~~And I'm determined to try to~~ lessen the distrust between us, to reduce the levels of secrecy, to bring forth a more "Open World." I imagine, how much sooner we could accomplish how much the cause of peace would be served, if more individuals and families from our respective countries could come to know each other in a personal way.

Imagine if JOHN DOE in Poughkeepsie could meet and visit Kiev Sergei Ivanov in Sverdlovsk, if Sergei's son or daughter could spend a year, or even 3 months, living with the DOE family, going to ~~summer camp~~ or classes at Poughkeepsie High, while JOHN DOE'S son or daughter went to school in Sverdlovsk? Soviet young people could learn first-hand what spirit of freedom rules our land, and that we do not wish the peoples of the Soviet Union any harm. Our young people would get first-hand knowledge of life in the U.S.S.R., ~~and perhaps a greater appreciation of our own~~, BUT MOST IMPORTANT THEY WOULD LEARN THAT WE ARE ALL GODS CHILDREN WITH MUCH IN COMMON.

Imagine if people in Minneapolis could see the Kirov Ballet live, while citizens in Mkhatchkala could see an American play or hear Count Basie's ~~Duke Ellington's~~ band? And how about Soviet children watching Sesame Street?

We have had educational and cultural exchanges for 25 years, and are now close to completing a new agreement. But I feel the time is ripe for us to take bold new steps to open the way for our peoples to participate in an unprecedented way in the building of peace. ~~That is why I intend to~~ WHY SHOULDN'T I propose to Mr. Gorbachev at Geneva that we exchange thousands of our citizens from fraternal, religious, educational, and cultural groups?

~~We are going to suggest~~ WHY NOT SUGGEST the exchange of thousands of undergraduates each year, and high school students who would live with a host family and attend schools or summer camps? We ~~also~~ COULD look to increase scholarship programs, improve language studies,

develop new sister cities, establish libraries and cultural centers, and yes, increase athletic competitions.

People of both our nations love sports. If we must compete, let it be on the ~~football~~ playing fields and not the battlefields.

In science and technology we ~~propose to~~ could launch new joint space flights and establish joint medical research projects. In communications, we would like to see more appearances in the other's mass media by representatives of both our countries: if Soviet spokesmen are free to appear on American television, to be published and read in the American press, shouldn't the Soviet peoples have the same right to see, hear, and read what we Americans have to say?

~~These~~ Such proposals will not bridge our differences, but people-to-people contacts can build genuine constituencies for peace in both countries. AFTER ALL PEOPLE DONT START WARS — GOVT'S. DO.

Let me summarize, then, the vision and hopes that we carry with us to Geneva.

We go with an appreciation, born of experience, of the deep differences between us -- between our values, our systems, our beliefs. But we also carry with us the determination not to permit those differences to erupt into confrontation or conflict.

AND WE WILL WE DONT LIKE EACH OTHERS GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS BUT WE ARE NOT OUT TO CHANGE THEIRS NOT PERMIT THEM TO CHANGE OURS.

We go without illusion, but with hope -- hope that progress can be made on our entire agenda. [We do not Hate the Soviet people and never would,]

~~Again, the elements of that agenda are these:~~

~~First, we believe the advance of human rights is the only certain guarantee of peaceful relations between states.~~ Free and

~~democratic peoples do not go to war against one another in the 20th century~~.

~~Second~~, We believe that progress can be made in resolving the regional conflicts burning now on three continents -- including in this hemisphere. The regional plan we enunciated at the United Nations will be raised again at Geneva.

~~Third~~, We are proposing the broadest people-to-people exchanges in the history of American-Soviet relations, exchanges in sports and culture, in the media education and the arts. Such exchanges can build in our societies thousands of coalitions for cooperation and peace. If high school and college students from Moscow and Minsk, from Tashkent and Kiev, can visit America every summer, they will not go home thinking we are a militaristic people. If thousands of American high school students can spend their summers in Russia and Lithuania, Estonia, and the Ukraine, they will convey a message about the American people and nation many people Soviet citizens never hear ~~.~~ LEARN TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF IN THOSE PLACES.

Governments can only do so much: once they get the ball rolling, they should step out of the way and let people get together to share, enjoy, help, listen and learn from each other, especially young people.

~~Fourth~~ FINALLY, we go to Geneva with the sober realization that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat in human history to the survival of the human race, that the arms race must be stopped. We go determined to search out, and discover, common ground -- where we can agree to begin the reduction, looking to the

eventual elimination, of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.

It is not an impossible dream that we can begin to reduce nuclear arsenals, reduce the risk of war, and build a solid foundation for peace. It is not an impossible dream that our children and grandchildren can some day travel freely back and forth between America and the Soviet Union, visit each other's homes, work and study together, enjoy and discuss plays, music, television, and ~~even~~ root for ~~each other's soccer~~ teams when they compete.

These, then, are the indispensable elements of a true peace: the steady expansion of human rights for all the world's peoples, ~~cooperation between the superpowers in bringing to resolution~~ Support for resolving conflicts ~~those regional conflicts~~ in Asia, Africa, and Latin America that carry the seeds of a wider war; a broadening of people-to-people exchanges that can diminish the distrust and suspicion that separate our two peoples. Lastly, the steady reduction of these awesome nuclear arsenals -- until they no longer threaten the world we must both inhabit. This is our agenda for Geneva; this is our policy; this is our plan for peace.

We have cooperated in the past. In both world wars, Americans and Russians fought on separate fronts against a common enemy. Near the City of Murmansk, sons of our own nation are buried, heroes who died of wounds sustained on the treacherous North Atlantic and North Sea convoys that carried to Russia the indispensable tools of survival and victory.

So, while it would be naive to think a single summit can establish a permanent peace, this conference can begin a dialogue for peace.

My fellow Americans, there is cause for hope -- hope that freedom will not only survive but triumph, perhaps sooner than any of us dares to imagine.

How could this be? Because this same 20th century that gave birth to nuclear weapons and police states, that has witnessed so much bloodshed and suffering, is now moving inexorably toward mankind's age-old dream for human dignity and self-determination.

We see the dream alive in Latin America where 90 percent of the people are now living under governments that are democratic or moving in that direction -- a dramatic reversal from a decade ago.

We see the dream stirring in Asia, where Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and China are vaulting ahead with stunning success.

We see the flame flickering in Afghanistan and Angola where brave people risk their lives for the same liberty we Americans have always enjoyed. We see the dream still stirring in the captive nations of Central Europe. In Poland, men and women of great faith and spirit -- the members of Solidarity, the faithful of the Catholic Church -- rise up again and again for better lives and a future of hope for their children.

A powerful tide is surging. And what is the driving force behind it?

It is faith -- faith in a loving God who, despite all the ordeals of the 20th century, has raised up the smallest believer to stand taller than the most powerful state. It is faith in the individual. And it is the desire for freedom -- freedom for people to dream, to reap the rewards of their own unique abilities to excel.

We've seen what a restoration of faith and a renewed belief in the moral worth of an open society have meant to America: a nation that has rediscovered its destiny, and prepared to maintain its greatness.

The restored vitality of the American economy has helped lift up the world economy, holding out to the family of nations the vision of growth.

The rebuilding of America's military might and overseas alliances has rekindled world respect for United States' power, confidence, and resolve.

America today has a foreign policy that not only speaks out for human rights, but works for them as well. In 5 years, not a single square inch of territory has been lost to communist aggression; and, Grenada has been liberated and set free. It is the tide of freedom that has again begun to rise.

So we look to the future with optimism, and we go to Geneva with confidence.

Both Nancy and I are grateful for the chance you have given us to serve this nation and the trust you have placed in us. I know how deep the hope of peace is in her heart, as it is in the heart of every American and Russian mother.

Insert 1

and pictures

I received a letter from one such mother in Louisiana recently. She wrote to the President, How could anyone be more blessed than I? These children you see enclosed in this envelope are mine, granted to me by the Lord for a short time...

When you go to Geneva please remember these faces... remember the faces of my children, Jonathan, (my son) and of my twins Lara (from Dr. Zhivago - a Russian story) and Jessica. Their future may depend on your actions. I will pray for guidance for you and the Soviet leaders.

Her words, my children, sad like a declaration of love. I could only think, how that cry....

Recently, we saw together a moving new film, the story of Eleni, a woman caught in the Greek civil war at the end of World War II, a mother who because she smuggled her children out to safety in America was tried, tortured and shot by a firing squad.

It is also the story of her son, Nicholas Gage, who grew up to become a reporter with the New York Times and who secretly vowed to return to Greece someday to take vengeance on the man who sent his mother to her death. But at the dramatic end of the story, Nick Gage finds he cannot extract the vengeance he has promised himself. To do so, Mr. Gage writes, might have relieved the pain that had filled him for so many years but it would also have broken the one bridge still connecting him to his mother and the part of him most like her. As he tells it: "her final cry... was not a curse on her killers but an invocation of what she died for, a declaration of love: 'my children.'"

How that cry has echoed down through the centuries, a cry for the children of the world, for peace, for love of fellowman.

Here is the central truth of our time, of any time, a truth to which I have tried to bear witness in this office.

When I first accepted the nomination of my party, I asked you, the American people, to join with me in prayer for our nation and the world. Six days ago, in the Cabinet Room, religious leaders from across our country -- Russian and Greek Orthodox bishops, Catholic Cardinals and Protestant pastors, Mormon elders and Jewish Rabbis, together made of me a similar request.

Tonight, I am honoring that request. I am asking you, my fellow Americans, to pray for God's grace and His guidance -- for all of us -- at Geneva, so that the cause of true peace among men will be advanced and all of humanity thereby served.

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/12/85 **ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:** NA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT
(November 12 - 5:30 pm draft)

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

REMARKS:

The attached is being forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(NSC redraft)
November 12, 1985
5:30 p.m.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

My fellow Americans. Good evening. In 48 hours, I will be leaving for Geneva for the first meeting between an American President and a Soviet leader in 6 years. I know that you and the people of the world are looking to that meeting with high hopes, so tonight I want to share with you my hopes and to tell you why I am going to Geneva.

My mission, stated simply, is a mission for peace. It is to engage the new Soviet leader in what I hope will be a dialogue for peace that endures as long as my Presidency -- and beyond. It is to sit down across from Mr. Gorbachev and try to map out, together, a basis for peaceful discourse even though our disagreements on fundamentals will not change.

It is my fervent hope that the two of us can begin a process which our successors and our peoples can continue: a process of facing our differences frankly and openly and beginning to narrow and resolve them; a process of communicating effectively so that our actions and intentions are not misunderstood; a process of building bridges between us and cooperating wherever possible for the greater good of all.

Our meeting will be a historic opportunity to set a steady, more constructive course through the 21st century.

The history of American-Soviet relations, however, does not augur well for euphoria. Eight of my predecessors -- each in his own way in his own time -- sought to achieve a more stable and

peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union. None fully succeeded. So I do not underestimate the difficulty of the task ahead. But these sad chapters do not relieve me of the obligation to use my years as President, and the capacities God has given me, to try to make ours a safer, better world. For our children, our grandchildren, for all mankind -- I intend to make the effort. And it is with your prayers, and God's guidance, that I hope to succeed.

Success at the summit, however, should not be measured by any short-term agreements that may be signed. Only the passage of time will tell us whether we constructed a durable bridge to a safer world.

This, then, is why I go to Geneva. To build a foundation for lasting peace.

When we speak of peace, however, we do not mean just the absence of war. We mean the true peace that rests on the pillars of individual freedom, human rights, national self-determination, and respect for the rule of law. History has shown us that peace is indivisible. Building a safer future requires that we address candidly all the issues which divide us, and not just to focus on one or two issues, important as they may be. Thus, when we meet in Geneva, our agenda will seek:

-- not just to avoid war, but to strengthen peace;

-- not just to prevent confrontation, but to remove the sources of tension;

-- not just to paper over differences, but to address them;

-- not just to talk about what our citizens want, but to let them talk to each other.

Since the dawn of the nuclear age, every American President has sought to limit and end the dangerous competition in nuclear arms. I have no higher priority than to finally realize that dream. I've said before, and will say again, a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

We have gone the extra mile in arms control, but our offers have not always been welcome.

In 1977, and again in 1981, the United States proposed to the Soviet Union deep reciprocal cuts in strategic forces. These offers were rejected, out-of-hand. The following year, we proposed the complete elimination of a whole category of intermediate range nuclear forces. Two years later we proposed a treaty for a global ban on chemical weapons. In 1983, the Soviet Union got up and walked out of the Geneva arms control negotiations altogether.

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If we both reduce the weapons of war there would be no losers, only winners. And the whole world would benefit if we could both find a way to abandon these weapons altogether and move to non-nuclear defensive systems which threaten no one.

But nuclear arms control is not of itself a final answer. As I reminded the editors of Pravda and Izvestia 2 weeks ago: nations do not distrust each other because they are armed. They are armed because they distrust each other. It is the use of force, subversion, and terror that has made the world a more dangerous place.

Thus, today, there is no peace in Afghanistan; no peace in Cambodia; no peace in Angola; no peace in Ethiopia; and no peace in Nicaragua. These wars have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and threaten to spill over national frontiers.

That is why in my address to the United Nations I proposed a way to end these conflicts, a regional peace plan that calls for -- ceasefires, negotiations among the warring parties, withdrawal of all foreign troops, democratic reconciliation, and economic assistance.

I made that proposal in the hope of never again having to phone the parents of American servicemen killed in action or cut down in some terrorist attack -- in the hope of never having to face the terrible alternative of submitting to blackmail or responding with a call to arms.

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A great danger in the past, however, has been the failure by our enemies to remember that while we Americans detest war, we love freedom -- and stand ready to sacrifice for it, as we have done four times in my lifetime.

In advancing freedom we Americans carry a special burden. A belief in the dignity of man in the sight of God gave birth to this country. It is central to our being. "The mass of mankind has not been with born with saddles on their backs," Thomas Jefferson told the world a century-and-a-half ago. Freedom is America's core. We must never deny it, nor forsake it. Should the day come when we Americans remain silent in the face of armed aggression, then the cause of America -- the cause of freedom -- will have been lost, and the great heart of this country will have been broken.

This affirmation of freedom is not only our duty as Americans, it is essential for success at Geneva.

Freedom and democracy are the best guarantors of peace. History has shown that democratic nations do not start wars. Respect for the individual and the rule of law is as fundamental to peace as arms control. A government which does not respect its citizens' rights and its international commitments to protect those rights is not likely to respect its other international undertakings.

That is why we must and will speak in Geneva on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. We are not trying to impose our beliefs on others. We had a right to expect, however, that great states will live up to their international obligations.

Despite our deep and abiding differences we can and must manage this historic conflict peacefully. We can and must prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence. We can find as yet undiscovered avenues where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind. And this, too, is why I am going to Geneva.

Enduring peace requires openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly.

The U.S. has always stood for openness. Thirty years ago in Geneva President Eisenhower, preparing for his first meeting with the then Soviet leader, made his Open Skies proposal and an offer of new educational and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union. He recognized that removing the barriers between people is at the heart of our relationship:

"Restrictions on communications of all kinds, including radio and travel, existing in extreme form in some places, have operated as causes of mutual distrust. In America, the fervent belief in freedom of thought, of expression, and of movement is a vital part of our heritage."

And I'm determined to try to lessen the distrust between us, to reduce the levels of secrecy, to bring forth a more "Open World."

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These proposals will not bridge our differences, but people-to-people contacts can build genuine constituencies for peace in both countries.

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We go with an appreciation, born of experience, of the deep differences between us -- between our values, our systems, our beliefs. But we also carry with us the determination not to permit those differences to erupt into confrontation or conflict.

We go without illusion, but with hope -- hope that progress can be made on our entire agenda.

Again, the elements of that agenda are these:

First, we believe the advance of human rights is the only certain guarantee of peaceful relations between states. Free and

democratic peoples do not go to war against one another in the 20th century.

Second, we believe that progress can be made in resolving the regional conflicts burning now on three continents -- including in this hemisphere. The regional plan we enunciated at the United Nations will be raised again at Geneva.

Third, we are proposing the broadest people-to-people exchanges in the history of American-Soviet relations, exchanges in sports and culture, in education and the arts. Such exchanges can build in our societies thousands of coalitions for cooperation and peace. If high school and college students from Moscow and Minsk, from Tashkent and Kiev, can visit America every summer, they will not go home thinking we are a militaristic people. If thousands of American high school students can spend their summers in Russia and Lithuania, Estonia, and the Ukraine, they will convey a message about the American people and nation many people Soviet citizens never hear.

Governments can only do so much: once they get the ball rolling, they should step out of the way and let people get together to share, enjoy, help, listen and learn from each other, especially young people.

Fourth, we go to Geneva with the sober realization that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat in human history to the survival of the human race, that the arms race must be stopped. We go determined to search out, and discover, common ground -- where we can agree to begin the reduction, looking to the

eventual elimination, of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.

It is not an impossible dream that we can begin to reduce nuclear arsenals, reduce the risk of war, and build a solid foundation for peace. It is not an impossible dream that our children and grandchildren can some day travel freely back and forth between America and the Soviet Union, visit each other's homes, work and study together, enjoy and discuss plays, music, television, and even root for each other's soccer teams.

These, then, are the indispensable elements of a true peace: the steady expansion of human rights for all the world's peoples, cooperation between the superpowers in bringing to resolution those regional conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America that carry the seeds of a wider war; a broadening of people-to-people exchanges that can diminish the distrust and suspicion that separate our two peoples. Lastly, the steady reduction of these awesome nuclear arsenals -- until they no longer threaten the world we must both inhabit. This is our agenda for Geneva; this is our policy; this is our plan for peace.

We have cooperated in the past. In both world wars, Americans and Russians fought on separate fronts against a common enemy. Near the City of Murmansk, sons of our own nation are buried, heroes who died of wounds sustained on the treacherous North Atlantic and North Sea convoys that carried to Russia the indispensable tools of survival and victory.

So, while it would be naive to think a single summit can establish a permanent peace, this conference can begin a dialogue for peace.

My fellow Americans, there is cause for hope -- hope that freedom will not only survive but triumph, perhaps sooner than any of us dares to imagine.

How could this be? Because this same 20th century that gave birth to nuclear weapons and police states, that has witnessed so much bloodshed and suffering, is now moving inexorably toward mankind's age-old dream for human dignity and self-determination.

We see the dream alive in Latin America where 90 percent of the people are now living under governments that are democratic or moving in that direction -- a dramatic reversal from a decade ago.

We see the dream stirring in Asia, where Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and China are vaulting ahead with stunning success.

We see the flame flickering in Afghanistan and Angola where brave people risk their lives for the same liberty we Americans have always enjoyed. We see the dream still stirring in the captive nations of Central Europe. In Poland, men and women of great faith and spirit -- the members of Solidarity, the faithful of the Catholic Church -- rise up again and again for better lives and a future of hope for their children.

A powerful tide is surging. And what is the driving force behind it?

It is faith -- faith in a loving God who, despite all the ordeals of the 20th century, has raised up the smallest believer to stand taller than the most powerful state. It is faith in the individual. And it is the desire for freedom -- freedom for people to dream, to reap the rewards of their own unique abilities to excel.

We've seen what a restoration of faith and a renewed belief in the moral worth of an open society have meant to America: a nation that has rediscovered its destiny, and prepared to maintain its greatness.

The restored vitality of the American economy has helped lift up the world economy, holding out to the family of nations the vision of growth.

The rebuilding of America's military might and overseas alliances has rekindled world respect for United States' power, confidence, and resolve.

America today has a foreign policy that not only speaks out for human rights, but works for them as well. In 5 years, not a single square inch of territory has been lost to communist aggression; and, Grenada has been liberated and set free. It is the tide of freedom that has again begun to rise.

So we look to the future with optimism, and we go to Geneva with confidence.

Both Nancy and I are grateful for the chance you have given us to serve this nation and the trust you have placed in us. I know how deep the hope of peace is in her heart, as it is in the heart of every American and Russian mother.

Recently, we saw together a moving new film, the story of Eleni, a woman caught in the Greek civil war at the end of World War II, a mother who because she smuggled her children out to safety in America was tried, tortured and shot by a firing squad.

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How that cry has echoed down through the centuries, a cry for the children of the world, for peace, for love of fellowman.

Here is the central truth of our time, of any time, a truth to which I have tried to bear witness in this office.

When I first accepted the nomination of my party, I asked you, the American people, to join with me in prayer for our nation and the world. Six days ago, in the Cabinet Room, religious leaders from across our country -- Russian and Greek Orthodox bishops, Catholic Cardinals and Protestant pastors, Mormon elders and Jewish Rabbis, together made of me a similar request.

Tonight, I am honoring that request. I am asking you, my fellow Americans, to pray for God's grace and His guidance -- for all of us -- at Geneva, so that the cause of true peace among men will be advanced and all of humanity thereby served.

Ben

(NSC redraft)
November 12, 1985
5:30 p.m. RR

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

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Despite our deep and abiding differences we can and must manage this historic conflict peacefully. We can and must prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence. We can find as yet undiscovered avenues where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind. And this, too, is why I am going to Geneva.

I am prepared to enter into a quiet dialogue with Gorbachev. We are interested in results, not rhetoric. He will find me a reasonable partner in this regard.

Enduring peace requires openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly.

The U.S. has always stood for openness. Thirty years ago in Geneva President Eisenhower, preparing for his first meeting with the then Soviet leader, made his Open Skies proposal and an offer of new educational and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union. He recognized that removing the barriers between people is at the heart of our relationship:

"Restrictions on communications of all kinds, including radio and travel, existing in extreme form in some places, have operated as causes of mutual distrust. In America, the fervent belief in freedom of thought, of expression, and of movement is a vital part of our heritage."

And I'm determined to try to lessen the distrust between us, to reduce the levels of secrecy, to bring forth a more "Open World."

(NSC redraft)
November 12, 1985
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

My fellow Americans. Good evening. In 48 hours, I will be leaving for Geneva for the first meeting between an American President and a Soviet leader in 6 years. I know that you and the people of the world are looking to that meeting with high hopes, so tonight I want to share with you my hopes and to tell you why I am going to Geneva.

My mission, stated simply, is a mission for peace. It is to engage the new Soviet leader in what I hope will be a dialogue for peace that endures as long as my Presidency -- and beyond. It is to sit down across from Mr. Gorbachev and try to map out, together, a basis for peaceful discourse even though our disagreements on fundamentals will not change.

It is my fervent hope that the two of us can begin a process which our successors and our peoples can continue: a process of facing our differences frankly and openly and beginning to narrow and resolve them; a process of communicating effectively so that our actions and intentions are not misunderstood; a process of building bridges between us and cooperating wherever possible for the greater good of all.

Our meeting will be a historic opportunity to set a steady, more constructive course through the 21st century.

The history of American-Soviet relations, however, does not augur well for euphoria. Eight of my predecessors -- each in his own way in his own time -- sought to achieve a more stable and

peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union. None fully succeeded. So I do not underestimate the difficulty of the task ahead. But these sad chapters do not relieve me of the obligation to use my years as President, and the capacities God has given me, to try to make ours a safer, better world. For our children, our grandchildren, for all mankind -- I intend to make the effort. And it is with your prayers, and God's guidance, that I hope to succeed.

Success at the summit, however, should not be measured by any short-term agreements that may be signed. Only the passage of time will tell us whether we constructed a durable bridge to a safer world.

This, then, is why I go to Geneva. To build a foundation for lasting peace.

When we speak of peace, however, we do not mean just the absence of war. We mean the true peace that rests on the pillars of individual freedom, human rights, national self-determination, and respect for the rule of law. History has shown us that peace is indivisible. Building a safer future requires that we address candidly all the issues which divide us, and not just to focus on one or two issues, important as they may be. Thus, when we meet in Geneva, our agenda will seek:

-- not just to avoid war, but to strengthen peace;

-- not just to prevent confrontation, but to remove the sources of tension;

-- not just to paper over differences, but to address them;

-- not just to talk about what our citizens want, but to let them talk to each other.

Since the dawn of the nuclear age, every American President has sought to limit and end the dangerous competition in nuclear arms. I have no higher priority than to finally realize that dream. I've said before, and will say again, a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

We have gone the extra mile in arms control, but our offers have not always been welcome.

In 1977, and again in 1981, the United States proposed to the Soviet Union deep reciprocal cuts in strategic forces. These offers were rejected, out-of-hand. The following year, we proposed the complete elimination of a whole category of intermediate range nuclear forces. Two years later we proposed a treaty for a global ban on chemical weapons. In 1983, the Soviet Union got up and walked out of the Geneva arms control negotiations altogether.

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If we both reduce the weapons of war there would be no losers, only winners. And the whole world would benefit if we could both find a way to abandon these weapons altogether and move to non-nuclear defensive systems which threaten no one.

But nuclear arms control is not of itself a final answer. As I reminded the editors of Pravda and Izvestia 2 weeks ago: nations do not distrust each other because they are armed. They are armed because they distrust each other. It is the use of force, subversion, and terror that has made the world a more dangerous place.

Thus, today, there is no peace in Afghanistan; no peace in Cambodia; no peace in Angola; no peace in Ethiopia; and no peace in Nicaragua. These wars have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and threaten to spill over national frontiers.

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A great danger in the past, however, has been the failure by our enemies to remember that while we Americans detest war, we love freedom -- and stand ready to sacrifice for it, as we have done four times in my lifetime.

In advancing freedom we Americans carry a special burden. A belief in the dignity of man in the sight of God gave birth to this country. It is central to our being. ~~"Men were not born to wear saddles on their backs,"~~ The mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs," Thomas Jefferson told the world ~~two centuries~~ a century and a half ago. Freedom is America's core. We must never deny it, nor forsake it. Should the day come when we Americans remain silent in the face of armed aggression, then the cause of America -- the cause of freedom -- will have been lost, and the great heart of this country will have been broken.

This affirmation of freedom is not only our duty as Americans, it is essential for success at Geneva.

Freedom and democracy are the best guarantors of peace. History has shown that democratic nations do not start wars. Respect for the individual and the rule of law is as fundamental to peace as arms control. A government which does not respect its citizens' rights and its international commitments to protect those rights is not likely to respect its other international undertakings.

That is why we must and will speak in Geneva on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. We are not trying to impose our beliefs on others. We had a right to expect, however, that great states will live up to their international obligations.

Despite our deep and abiding differences we can and must manage this historic conflict peacefully. We can and must prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence. We can find as yet undiscovered avenues, where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind. And this, too, is why I am going to Geneva.

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Imagine if people in Minneapolis could see the Kirov Ballet live, while citizens in Mkhatchkala could see an American play or hear Duke Ellington's band? And how about Soviet children watching Sesame Street?

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We are going to suggest the exchange of thousands of undergraduates each year, and high school students who would live with a host family and attend schools or summer camps. We also look to increase scholarship programs, improve language studies,

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We go with an appreciation, born of experience, of the deep differences between us -- between our values, our systems, our beliefs. But we also carry with us the determination not to permit those differences to erupt into confrontation or conflict.

We go without illusion, but with hope -- hope that progress can be made on our entire agenda.

Again, the elements of that agenda are these:

First, we believe the advance of human rights is the only certain guarantee of peaceful relations between states. Free and

democratic peoples do not go to war against one another in the 20th century.

Second, we believe that progress can be made in resolving the regional conflicts burning now on three continents -- including in this hemisphere. The regional plan we enunciated at the United Nations will be raised again at Geneva.

Third, we are proposing the broadest people-to-people exchanges in the history of American-Soviet relations, exchanges in sports and culture, in education and the arts. Such exchanges can build in our thousands of societies coalitions for cooperation and peace. If high school and college students from Moscow and Minsk, from Tashkent and Kiev, can visit America every summer, they will not go home thinking we are a militaristic people. If thousands of American high school students can spend their summers in Russia and Lithuania, Estonia, and the Ukraine, they will convey a message about the American people and nation many people Soviet citizens never hear.

Governments can only do so much: once they get the ball rolling, they should step out of the way and let people get together to share, enjoy, help, listen and learn from each other, especially young people.

Fourth, we go to Geneva with the sober realization that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat in human history to the survival of the human race, that the arms race must be stopped. We go determined to search out, and discover, common ground -- where we can agree to begin the reduction, looking to the

eventual elimination, of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.

It is not an impossible dream that we can begin to reduce nuclear arsenals, reduce the risk of war, and build a solid foundation for peace. It is not an impossible dream that our children and grandchildren can some day travel freely back and forth between America and the Soviet Union, visit each other's homes, work and study together, enjoy and discuss plays, music, television, and even root for each other's soccer teams.

These, then, are the indispensable elements of a true peace: the steady expansion of human rights for all the world's peoples, cooperation between the superpowers in bringing to resolution those regional conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America that carry the seeds of a wider war; a broadening of people-to-people exchanges that can diminish the distrust and suspicion that separate our two peoples. Lastly, the steady reduction of these awesome nuclear arsenals -- until they no longer threaten the world we must both inhabit. This is our agenda for Geneva; this is our policy; this is our plan for peace.

We have cooperated in the past. In both world wars, Americans and Russians fought on separate fronts against a common enemy. Near the City of Murmansk, sons of our own nation are buried, heroes who died of wounds sustained on the treacherous North Atlantic and North Sea convoys that carried to Russia the indispensable tools of survival and victory.

So, while it would be naive to think a single summit can establish a permanent peace, this conference can begin a dialogue for peace.

My fellow Americans, there is cause for hope -- hope that freedom will not only survive but triumph, perhaps sooner than any of us dares to imagine.

How could this be? Because this same 20th century that gave birth to nuclear weapons and police states, that has witnessed so much bloodshed and suffering, is now moving inexorably toward mankind's age-old dream for human dignity and self-determination.

We see the dream alive in Latin America where 90 percent of the people are now living under governments that are democratic or moving in that direction -- a dramatic reversal from a decade ago.

We see the dream stirring in Asia, where Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and China are vaulting ahead with stunning success.

We see the flame flickering in Afghanistan and Angola where brave people risk their lives for the same liberty we Americans have always enjoyed. We see the dream still stirring in the captive nations of Central Europe. In Poland, men and women of great faith and spirit -- the members of Solidarity, the faithful of the Catholic Church -- rise up again and again for better lives and a future of hope for their children.

A powerful tide is surging. And what is the driving force behind it?

It is faith -- faith in a loving God who, despite all the ordeals of the 20th century, has raised up the smallest believer to stand taller than the most powerful state. It is faith in the individual. And it is the desire for freedom -- freedom for people to dream, to reap the rewards of their own unique abilities to excel.

We've seen what a restoration of faith and a renewed belief in the moral worth of an open society have meant to America: a nation that has rediscovered its destiny, and prepared to maintain its greatness.

The restored vitality of the American economy has helped lift up the world economy, holding out to the family of nations the vision of growth.

The rebuilding of America's military might and overseas alliances has rekindled world respect for United States' power, confidence, and resolve.

America today has a foreign policy that not only speaks out for human rights, but works for them as well. In 5 years, not a single square inch of territory has been lost to communist aggression; and, Grenada has been liberated and set free. It is the tide of freedom that has again begun to rise.

So we look to the future with optimism, and we go to Geneva with confidence.

Both Nancy and I are grateful for the chance you have given us to serve this nation and the trust you have placed in us. I know how deep the hope of peace is in her heart, as it is in the heart of every American and Russian mother.

Recently, we saw together a moving new film, the story of Eleni, a woman caught in the Greek civil war at the end of World War II, a mother who because she smuggled her children out to safety in America was tried, tortured and shot by a firing squad.

It is also the story of her son, Nicholas Gage, who grew up to become a reporter with the New York Times and who secretly vowed to return to Greece someday to take vengeance on the man who sent his mother to her death. But at the dramatic end of the story, Nick Gage finds he cannot extract the vengeance he has promised himself. To do so, Mr. Gage writes, might have relieved the pain that had filled him for so many years but it would also have broken the one bridge still connecting him to his mother and the part of him most like her. As he tells it: "her final cry... was not a curse on her killers but an invocation of what she died for, a declaration of love: 'my children.'"

How that cry has echoed down through the centuries, a cry for the children of the world, for peace, for love of fellowman.

Here then is what Geneva is really about: the hope of heeding such words, spoken so often in so many different places -- on a desert journey to a promised land, by a carpenter beside the Sea of Galilee -- words calling all men to be brothers and all nations to be one.

Here is the central truth of our time, of any time, a truth to which I have tried to bear witness in this office.

When I first accepted the nomination of my party, I asked you, the American people, to join with me in prayer for our nation and the world. Six days ago, in the Cabinet Room,

religious leaders from across our country -- Russian and Greek Orthodox bishops, Catholic Cardinals and Protestant pastors, Mormon elders and Jewish Rabbis, together made of me a similar request.

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A powerful tide is surging. And what is the driving force behind it?

It is faith -- faith in a loving God who, despite all the ordeals of the 20th century, has raised up the smallest believer to stand taller than the most powerful state. It is faith in the individual. And it is the desire for freedom -- freedom for people to dream, to reap the rewards of their own unique abilities to excel.

We've seen what a restoration of faith and a renewed belief in the moral worth of an open society have meant to America: a nation that has rediscovered its destiny, and prepared to maintain its greatness.

The restored vitality of the American economy has helped lift up the world economy, holding out to the family of nations the vision of growth.

The rebuilding of America's military might and overseas alliances has rekindled world respect for United States' power, confidence, and resolve.

America today has a foreign policy that not only speaks out for human rights, but works for them as well. In 5 years, not a single square inch of territory has been lost to communist aggression; and, Grenada has been liberated and set free. It is the tide of freedom that has again begun to rise.

So we look to the future with optimism, and we go to Geneva with confidence.

Both Nancy and I are grateful for the chance you have given us to serve this nation and the trust you have placed in us. I know how deep the hope of peace is in her heart, as it is in the heart of every American and Russian mother.

Recently, we saw together a moving new film, the story of Eleni, a woman caught in the Greek civil war at the end of World War II, a mother who because she smuggled her children out to safety in America was tried, tortured and shot by a firing squad.

It is also the story of her son, Nicholas Gage, who grew up to become a reporter with the New York Times and who secretly vowed to return to Greece someday to take vengeance on the man who sent his mother to her death. But at the dramatic end of the story, Nick Gage finds he cannot extract the vengeance he has promised himself. To do so, Mr. Gage writes, might have relieved the pain that had filled him for so many years but it would also have broken the one bridge still connecting him to his mother and the part of him most like her. As he tells it: "her final cry... was not a curse on her killers but an invocation of what she died for, a declaration of love: 'my children.'"

How that cry has echoed down through the centuries, a cry for the children of the world, for peace, for love of fellowman.

Here then is what Geneva is really about: the hope of heeding such words, spoken so often in so many different places -- on a desert journey to a promised land, by a carpenter beside the Sea of Galilee -- words calling all men to be brothers and all nations to be one.

Here is the central truth of our time, of any time, a truth to which I have tried to bear witness in this office.

When I first accepted the nomination of my party, I asked you, the American people, to join with me in prayer for our nation and the world. Six days ago, in the Cabinet Room,

religious leaders from across our country -- Russian and Greek Orthodox bishops, Catholic Cardinals and Protestant pastors, Mormon elders and Jewish Rabbis, together made of me a similar request.

Tonight, I am honoring that request. I am asking you, my fellow Americans, to pray for God's grace and His guidance -- for all of us -- at Geneva, so that the cause of true peace among men will be advanced and all of humanity thereby served.