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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Geneva, Switzerland)

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

November 20, 1985

The Hotel Intercontinental

11:50 A.M. (L)

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12:50 P.M. (L)

#1620-11/20

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November 20, 1985

Press Filing Center
The Hotel Intercontinental

11:50 A.M. (L)

MR. SPEAKES: A number of routine announcements to start.

The First Lady's office has provided a notice to the press that gives details on tonight's dinner hosted by the President and the First Lady. They are available at the table in the rear, embargoed for 7:00 p.m. Geneva time.

This morning the President met with his advisors from 9:10 a.m. until 9:40 a.m. prior to going to the meeting at the Mission. I will return to that shortly.

He is expected to conclude the meeting, if it goes on schedule, at 12:15 p.m. today and goes to the residence for a working lunch with advisors today.

Back to the Soviet Mission at 2:25 p.m., afternoon meeting with press pool coverage at the beginning, and the meeting is to conclude at 4:30 p.m.

President and Mrs. Reagan attend the Swiss-hosted reception tonight. They leave the residence at 6:45 p.m, with a pool accompanying.

Tonight the President will be greeted by the President of Switzerland, Kurt Furgler and his wife Ursula, and then there will be a receiving line. The President will first greet the Gorbachevs. Both couples, along with the Furglers, will participate in a photo opportunity. Then they will sign the guest book. Pool coverage of all of that. Then the three couples form a receiving line -- expected to be carried live on Swiss TV -- and then the President will greet the guests with General Secretary Gorbachev at 7:40 p.m.

They go back to the residence at 7:50 p.m. and greet the Gorbachevs at 8:15 p.m. Press pool coverage of both. Dinner begins at 8:35 p.m. and concludes at 9:50 p.m., and the particulars, as we say, are provided by the First Lady's press office. The dinner is expected to conclude at 10:15 p.m.

Questions yesterday about the gifts. The President's gift to General Secretary Gorbachev -- a chippendale-style box made of mahogany with a silver top, engraved with the Presidential Seal and an inscription, which simply says, "To His Excellency, Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, from Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, November, 1985." It was made by Colonial Williamsburg.

There is a desk set of two pens, in addition, created to commemorate the 1985 Geneva meetings. The theme: Peace through Communications, was selected in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Apollo Soyuz space mission. It is reproduced on a titanium base and

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is a view of the earth as seen from outer space, and crystal-etched on the surface of the glass are the flags of friendship symbol from the Apollo Soyuz mission. Two pen sets --

Q How big was the box, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q Is it as big as a box? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Larry, do you know if there is a picture of that box somewhere?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon? A picture of the box? No, I'm not aware of a picture of the box.

Mrs. Reagan gave Mrs. Gorbachev a large porcelain bowl called The Rose Garden Bowl, handpainted with peace roses, presented in a walnut case.

General Secretary Gorbachev gave to the President a set of bronze medallions in a red leather case lined with velvet. There are fifteen medallions in a circle representing the fifteen republics of the Soviet Union. Each medallion has on one side the flag of the Republic created in enamel and on the other side the official seal of the Republic. In the center is a medallion with a Soviet flag on one side and the hammer and sickle emblem of the Soviet Union on the other.

In addition, they presented a palekh -- is that correct -- p-a-l-e-k-h -- wall plaque, 14 by 11 inches, which is a view of the Kremlin with Saint Basil's Cathedral in the background. What's the correct pronunciation?

Q Palekh.

Q Palekh.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Mrs. Gorbachev gave to Mrs. Reagan a string of graduated beads, a matching bracelet -- ivory and gold colored, resembling marble; handpainted white porcelain tea set composed of a teapot, two cups and saucers, and a matching tray. The design appears to be Central Asian scenes, done in blue, gold, red, and green.

Present in Geneva with the U.S. delegation, in case you see them around, are the five Assistant Secretaries of State for the various regions of the world, who are here to receive briefings on the summit meetings and will return to their respective areas to brief other nations. They include Roz Ridgway, East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Secretary Murphy for --

MR. DJERJIAN: Roz Ridgway is European Affairs.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I'm sorry. Roz Ridgway is European and Canadian Affairs; Secretary Murphy for Near East; Paul Wolfowitz for East Asia and Pacific; Elliot Abrams for Latin America; and Chet Crocker for Africa.

This morning the President arrived at the Soviet Embassy at 9:57 a.m. As they entered and were removing their coats, the President asked whether the two would have an opportunity to meet privately. Secretary Gorbachev said, "Yes, after the photos, then we will meet."

During the photo op, the President described how well his jet diet had worked and says, "We're getting used to Geneva

time." Secretary Gorbachev replied -- and your pool will have some of this -- that "we have had a lively discussion on everything," in answer to a question. The President characterized it as "worthwhile discussions."

Secretary Gorbachev, in reply to a press question which the pool was present at, says, "The fact that the meeting took place is important. We're proceeding on a careful course. We look at problems that Americans, and Soviet people, and others -- in a careful manner. There have been lively discussions on everything -- frank, businesslike, and responsible."

Q Who was that again, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Gorbachev.

Q Larry, are you using another interpreter than was in the room to interpret this?

MR. SPEAKES: No, these are the notes I made right there. If I differ from you, I'd be glad to hear the difference.

Q -- never heard the President say "worthwhile."

MR. SPEAKES: That was the Soviets. You weren't in there. That was during -- to the Soviets.

Q Larry, "frank, businesslike and" what were --

MR. SPEAKES: Businesslike and responsible.

Secretary Gorbachev was asked about table pounding, whether that had taken place. He said, "No, not today, tomorrow or in the future."

The President was asked should Secretary Gorbachev come to the United States. And the President replied, "Of course."

There was a brief exchange during the shuffling in and out of photo pools in which the President said to General Secretary Gorbachev, "There is much that divides us, but I believe the world breathes easier because we are here talking together."

At another point, the President said, "Our differences are serious, but so is our commitment to improving understanding."

Q Can you go slower, please? "Our differences are serious, but -- "

MR. SPEAKES: Repeating the President's statements, the President said, "There is much that divides us, but I believe the world breathes easier because we are here talking together." He later said, "Our differences are serious, but so is our commitment to improving understanding."

Q Is any of that on TV or is that in between --

MR. SPEAKES: That was in between, as people were coming in and out.

Q "Our differences are serious, but -- "

MR. SPEAKES: The --

Q Larry, one more time, "Our differences are serious, but -- "

MR. SPEAKES: "Our differences are serious, but so is our commitment to improving understanding."

Q What did Gorbachev say in response?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't get it because it was in Russian and -- basically, I didn't hear a lot of response on it.

Q Larry, getting back to what you said about the question to the President about would you invite him to the United States, the way the pooler described that had a little bit more. Can you say whether -- Gorbachev saying that that had already been discussed. Can you just tell us has that offer been made, since Gorbachev --

MR. SPEAKES: Can't discuss the content of the meetings. I'm telling you what happened in public.

Q Larry --

Q But were you there when Gorbachev said that and that's --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I was.

Q And you don't have any --

Q Mr. Speakes --

Q -- disagreement with what --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm trying to continue with the report, if I could. We will answer questions at the appropriate time.

The private meeting between the two began at 10:08 a.m. and concluded at 11:17 a.m., one hour and nine minutes, which is five minutes longer than the visit privately in the initial session yesterday.

Q Where did it take place, Larry, could you tell us?

MR. SPEAKES: It took place in the Mission, adjacent to the Grand Hall, which is adjacent to the meeting room.

Q Who was there?

MR. SPEAKES: Another question?

Q Who was there?

MR. SPEAKES: The President, General Secretary Gorbachev and their interpreters.

There was -- the meeting ended at 10:17 a.m. There was a --

Q 11:17 a.m.

MR. SPEAKES: 11:17 a.m. There was a photo op that lasted five minutes and the full session began at 11:22 a.m. and it continues at this time. I, of course, am not going to be able to characterize in any fashion the President's private meeting because I've not had an opportunity to talk to him because he went directly into the full meeting.

Q Can you characterize the session yesterday afternoon which --

MR. SPEAKES: I did.

Q You characterized the session at 5:00 p.m., but -- before you had a readout on the second session.

MR. SPEAKES: No. I did have information on the second session because I had talked to the people who had been in the second session and I characterized it at 5:00 p.m.

Q Is the subject matter from yesterday concluded or are they going to stick to the original schedule for the agenda items today?

MR. SPEAKES: Not discussing subject matter or agenda items.

Helen.

Q Are the other aides discussing it?

MR. SPEAKES: Helen.

Q Are the other aides --

MR. SPEAKES: Helen.

Q We've had three private meetings now and we were not told about this beforehand. One, I have to ask the same question I did yesterday. Are they -- is this unexpected? And to what do you attribute it? I mean, is it a good sign, bad sign? Does it mean the President really feels he can get further by talking alone?

MR. SPEAKES: These --

Q Question, Larry.

MR. SPEAKES: Were the meetings unscheduled and how do we characterize the meetings.

Q Well, I mean, what does it mean?

MR. SPEAKES: The President has now met roughly three hours with General Secretary Gorbachev in private meetings with no aides. I can only interpret that as that the two men communicate well with each other. They outlined their views very effectively to each other. The two obviously feel comfortable with each other in discussing the issues between us there.

Your question was was it planned. No it wasn't planned. We were not sure, as you know, as I described, the President asked the question when he arrived in the Soviet Mission today would there be an opportunity to meet privately.

Q Well, he has initiated all of the private sessions?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't want to say that about today's. He did ask the question, but the General Secretary was obviously planning on the meeting when the President came in, in my opinion.

Jim.

Q Larry, do you now expect that the formal plenary summit sessions will end today?

MR. SPEAKES: It has always been our expectation that the formal sessions would end today. On the question of whether there will be any activity tomorrow, we do not have that decided. It has not been decided.

Q Follow-up?

Q Are you ruling out another meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm going to come to you. I'll be there. You just raise your hand. You don't have to keep talking.

Q Larry, it's our understanding that both sides are working towards agreeing on some form of session tomorrow. Can you give us some sense of how that is coming about?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I can't.

Q Mr. Gorbachev plans a news conference. Does the President plan a unilateral news conference as well?

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, tomorrow's schedule has not been worked out, and until it is, I will not be able to -- on it.

Frank.

Q Well, what about the discussion with the Soviets in terms of trying to find -- we understand there are differences of opinions on venue, for example, for a joint session.

Q Question.

Q Larry, will you repeat the questions?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes --

Q This is a private conversation the way it's going.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay, Colonel. The question is are there private discussions going on about tomorrow's arrangements. I'm not in a position to confirm any private discussions. I will not confirm any private discussions.

Frank.

Q Yesterday, you went a little farther, it seemed, in characterizing the tone of the talks. You said the tone was good, exchanges were good, generally good atmosphere.

MR. SPEAKES: Frank, where were you when I answered her question about a minute and a half ago?

Q Let me finish.

MR. SPEAKES: In which I said I have not had a chance to debrief the President about what he talked about in the private session this morning.

Q What I was going --

MR. SPEAKES: And the other session is still going on, so I can't describe it until it concludes.

Q If you'd let me finish my question.

MR. SPEAKES: All right. I don't know how you are going to work out of that one, but go ahead. (Laughter.)

Q Well, you haven't briefed since that time yesterday. The dinner last night and from what you saw today, can you say that --

MR. SPEAKES: I can indicate that the dinner last night continued in the same tone of yesterday's discussions, which was a good atmosphere. Last night's dinner was for the most part social. There were certainly references to various topics of discussion, but for the most part it was a social occasion.

Q Mr. Speakes, may I ask my question now?

MR. SPEAKES: You can when I finish with the people on

the front row.

Q Yes, first of all, is there -- there are really two questions. We understand that Gorbachev is planning a news conference tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Does that in any way preclude a joint appearance with the President also tomorrow morning?

MR. SPEAKES: No, tomorrow morning has --

Q Question, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Does the Gorbachev press conference, which incidentally -- to my knowledge the U.S. side has not been officially informed of. We've seen the press reports on it.

Q Do you have any problems with that?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't have any problems with it. Does that preclude a joint appearance with the two? No, there are many hours in tomorrow morning, so I think it doesn't.

Q And secondly, we are also hearing reports that the President might not go to Brussels tomorrow to brief the NATO allies. Is that --

MR. SPEAKES: Those reports are incorrect. The President will be in Brussels tomorrow and will brief the NATO allies?

So, Lesley, and then I'll get you.

Q Yes, do you mean to be ruling out another session tomorrow? Another formal meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: I have not heard of any plans for a formal session tomorrow. I've not heard them discussed. Tomorrow morning is open. We don't have a schedule for tomorrow until today's sessions conclude and we arrive at some decision.

Q If there is a joint appearance, will it -- is it likely that it would come after Mr. Gorbachev's news conference? And are there any plans or any discussions about President Reagan meeting the press tomorrow morning?

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, we --

Q Question, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Any discussions tomorrow about what the schedule is. For the fourth, fifth, sixth time -- no, we have not had any discussions about tomorrow and we don't have a schedule that we can give you. When we get one and arrive at it, we will.

Now let's get the lady who is patiently waiting.

Q It was about this press conference of Mr. Gorbachev tomorrow. The U.S. Mission has called the Swiss TV this morning to announce his press conference, so I can confirm it to you.

MR. SPEAKES: The U.S. mission has called to announce the Gorbachev --

Q No, the Soviet Mission has confirmed this with --

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I'm sorry.

Q -- Swiss TV this morning, and so I wanted to know if President Reagan was going to give also a press conference? You have answered this question already.

MR. SPEAKES: Is the President going to give a press conference tomorrow?

THE PRESS: No.

MR. SPEAKES: It hasn't been determined.

Q I was wondering if there were any -- You referred to some procedures of how the President is debriefing his advisers about these private sessions. Could you tell us a little more about that? Is there some sort of formal way he does that?

MR. SPEAKES: It varies --

Q Question, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Is the -- how is the debriefing process taking place? How is he telling his advisers what he talked about?

Normally the morning -- well, I'll begin at noon. After the first session each day there is a luncheon, which includes the Secretary of State, the Chief of Staff, foreign policy advisers, and other appropriate people, at which the President discusses what was discussed in the morning meeting. Others chime in in the part of the meeting they participated in. They also talk about the afternoon meeting. Then late in the afternoon he usually sits down with the Secretary of State, Don Regan, and Bud McFarlane to discuss it. Then in the morning we all gather again for about thirty or forty minutes in which we discuss yesterday's meetings, last night's dinner, and an advance on this morning's meetings.

Q Does he -- may I just follow up? Does he read from notes, from written notes that he might have been taking during his private discussions?

MR. SPEAKES: No, he does not.

Q Or is it from memory?

MR. SPEAKES: From memory.

Q Larry, as you describe the situation, there is no record being kept of these conversations. Number one, is that true, and number two -- I mean in a formal sense, note-takers are ritualistically used at all high level meetings, which raises the question -- if you could answer that. And the second part of the question, perhaps if you can tell us, has the whole agenda had been put off for some future meeting and they're just having general discussions?

MR. SPEAKES: The note-takers are not present -- interpreters only. But I don't think either side has any problems with recollections of the meeting being properly recalled for future use.

Q No, it's a literal question. I say he tells Regan and Shultz. Do they then tell note-takers, or how far -- how many steps along the way --

MR. SPEAKES: Don't know whether it goes beyond that or not, Barry.

You had a second part, which was --

Q Yes, the possibility that if there is no need to keep close notes on these meetings, I asked the question, if the whole agenda hasn't been put off for some future meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: You can assume that the agenda is being continued, both in the private meetings and in the public meetings.

Q Can you tell us if there have any recording devices used in the private meetings?

MR. SPEAKES: Not to my knowledge.

Q Larry, has there been any comparison between Soviet and American accounts of the private meetings as they both report back? Are the officials in the broader delegations comparing notes or confirming impressions?

MR. SPEAKES: Is there any difference that we are aware of in the way the Soviets report back to their officials and we report back to ours?

We've not seen any differences in the way they describe the private meetings.

Q And has there been a discussion between the other officials, the delegation, of the various accounts from the two leaders?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think a direct discussion. Has there been a discussion between the various delegations and amongst themselves about what the two leaders talk about?

I'm not aware of any direct discussions, but certainly it comes up on the edge.

Q You've characterized the tone of discussions between Mr. Gorbachev and the President. What about the tone of discussions between the summit teams? How are those guys getting along?

MR. SPEAKES: I think they very accurately reflect what is taking place in the other meetings.

Q Larry, do you expect to have an answer on tomorrow morning by the end of the afternoon session today?

MR. SPEAKES: It depends, John. I can't foreclose -- I can't guess.

Q Larry, if it looks like Chairman Gorbachev's going to have a press conference tomorrow, how comprehensive a briefing are you going to have before you pull the cord and go to Brussels?

MR. SPEAKES: It depends on the outcome.

Q Question?

MR. SPEAKES: How comprehensive a briefing in the morning will we have? It depends on the conclusions of the meeting, but we historically have briefed comprehensively at the conclusion of a session, and I wouldn't see any deviation from that.

Q Maybe I missed some of the discussion about tomorrow, but I want to ask about today.

MR. SPEAKES: Good.

Q Are you or other U.S. officials planning on briefing us at any time today? How long do you envision this rule on which you're not formally telling anybody about the details and the substance of the meeting will last? What do -- in other -- what do you give in that rundown of the day?

MR. SPEAKES: The only briefing scheduled at the moment is my briefing around 5:00 p.m. here this afternoon at which I will give the traditional reporting that we have for the last day or so. But the outcome of this afternoon's meeting could very well indicate

as to whether we would continue the blackout through the evening or agree among both sides to talk tonight or wait until tomorrow.

Q It's possible, then, it's possible that Secretary Shultz or some other U.S. official could brief us late this evening after the meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: That's not planned at the moment.

Q Question?

Q What was the question, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Would Shultz -- is it possible Shultz or anybody would brief this afternoon or late this evening? That is not planned at the moment.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Owen?

Q Has the President briefed his aides extensively about his private conversations? And have you been given any clear indications of what, if anything, is being accomplished, whether or not -- I understand you're not going to tell us, but in the atmospherics that you've provided us, are you doing that with your own understanding of what is taking place --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, my --

Q -- or simply that they are telling you to --

MR. SPEAKES: My atmospherics description is accurate and based on a full knowledge of what is taking place in the private and the larger sessions.

Q And the President is extensively briefing his people about the conversations?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Can you tell us how he's doing that? Has he been taking notes --

MR. SPEAKES: No, he briefs it from memory, as I told Mike here about five minutes ago.

John?

Q Larry, has Shultz had any private sessions with Shevardnadze?

MR. SPEAKES: There have been some private sessions during -- for instance, this morning during the hour or so there was an informal stand-up, give-and-take that sometimes touched on issues, other times touched on the weather.

Q It was not a formal private session similar to the sessions with the President?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q What was that --

MR. SPEAKES: Sam?

Q Larry, does the --

MR. SPEAKES: Did Shultz have any formal private sessions with Shevardnadze?

Q Does the President share Donald T. Regan's view that women certainly would not understand these weighty matters, and they're more interested in the teas and the coffees of the two First Ladies?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I don't think you've accurately --

Q Repeat the question.

MR. SPEAKES: -- I don't think you've -- he wants to know, does the President share Regan's views about women?

Q -- women?

Q -- problem with the accuracy of my question?

MR. SPEAKES: Whose -- who -- do you have an aide there that furnishes you your transcript?

Q Well, I have the Associated Press wire story report of The Washington Post, and there may be some inaccuracies here but --

MR. SPEAKES: Would you want to do it from the podium?

Q -- I'm sure you've seen it.

MR. SPEAKES: Would you want to do it from the podium?

Q Well, no, but I want you not -- either to answer the question or if you think there's an inaccuracy in the question, let's straighten it out.

MR. SPEAKES: Let me give you the answer, and then if you feel compelled to read it, you may. The answer to that is I have not talked to the President about the statement that was contained in The Washington Post article of a few days ago, which you're just now catching up with, but --

Q What difference does that make about the question?

MR. SPEAKES: I've not talked to the President about it, I'm sorry. And, so, I do not know whether he shares those views or not.

Q Are you questioning the accuracy --

Q Well, I'm on the next --

MR. SPEAKES: I think your question -- if you were a sharper questioner, you would ask me, does the First Lady share those views?

Q Well, I -- on the next pool, I may inquire of --

MR. SPEAKES: Let me go to the --

Q Does the First Lady share those views?

Q What about Mr. Regan? What about Mr. Regan?

MR. SPEAKES: The Colonel.

Q Can we follow up on that question?

Q The subject is not going away. You cannot make it go away.

Q Does the First Lady share those views?

Q -- First Lady share those views?

Q And it's your own question.

MR. SPEAKES: Summits rise or fall in the press corps on peripheral issues, as has been noted here.

Q You raised it.

Q Not true.

Q No, no.

Q You raised it. What's the answer?

Q -- deal with the issues.

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't raise the women's thing.

Q No, but you just said the better question is, what does Mrs. Reagan think?

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't asked her.

Q Oh --

Q What about the --

MR. SPEAKES: Colonel.

Q That's a good question.

Q I have the next pool. I'll be happy to ask Mr. Gorbachev.

Q Is there any --

MR. SPEAKES: Colonel?

Q -- effort to brief -- to debrief the interpreter about the private sessions?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we just don't get into details about how we do business, you know.

Colonel?

Q On what did you base your answer to the question to the President, will Mr. Gorbachev come to the United States and the President answered, "Of course"?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I think he said, would you like for him to come? Is that -- would you like for him to come? And the President said, "Of course." So --

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Let me go to --

Q On that same point --

Q Do you have any idea about when?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't. No.

Q Is the President equally enthusiastic about his going to Moscow?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, he would be. He would give you the

same answer.

Q Larry, in the private session today, were there any tip-offs, such as a previously lit fire that would indicate that this had been planned by the Soviets in advance?

MR. SPEAKES: There was not a fireplace in the room, so it would have been inappropriate to light a fire there. (Laughter.)

Q Larry, the question was, were there any signals like that that would indicate --

MR. SPEAKES: Well, there were two chairs there with soft cushions designed to last an hour and 17 minutes -- or nine minutes. So --

Yes, sir?

Q Can we expect today or tomorrow any joint communique or statement?

MR. SPEAKES: Any what?

Q Joint communique or statement?

MR. SPEAKES: Just don't have tomorrow's schedule.

Naomi, a question?

Q Have you seen Gromyko, who was here in Geneva? And what do you think his input is behind the scenes --

MR. SPEAKES: I have not --

Q Question?

MR. SPEAKES: Have we seen Gromyko who, Naomi says, is in Geneva? Have you been out with Gromyko again? (Laughter.) (Applause.) Naomi likes that.

Q I'll kill him! (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Sam would be very upset if he knew you were out with Gromyko. (Laughter.)

Q You promised to be true, Naomi. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know, Naomi. I haven't seen him and don't know.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: So --

Don't

Q Larry, I recognize when you say that no agreement has been made about what will happen late today or tomorrow morning. But I'd like to point out to you that from the press standpoint there's a tremendous difference between a rule of secrecy to protect the discussions and a rule of secrecy for public relations purposes.

MR. SPEAKES: Or for press planning purposes, too, which I know is important.

Q So, that I would hope that when the discussions are completed they could be promptly reported to -- not held over for 24 hours or 10 hours or whatever --

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I think they will be promptly reported. Now, whether promptly means tonight or tomorrow morning, we would consider tomorrow promptly, so -- in my opinion.

Q Larry --

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Bill?

Q Who was in the plenary session with the President this morning, please?

MR. SPEAKES: Let's see. I don't have my list before me, but it was the usual people -- Ridgway today -- all of the above, and Ridgway.

Q How about Nitze?

MR. SPEAKES: No --

Q He was not.

MR. SPEAKES: -- was not -- Nitze was not today -- this morning.

Q How about Elliot Abrams?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry.

Q Larry

MR. SPEAKES: Let me go over here. Mike.

Q The Italian News Agency, ANSA, is reporting that the President and the General Secretary have agreed to meet again either next year or in '87. Could you comment on it?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I couldn't -- couldn't comment on -- an Italian News Agency report that the President and the General Secretary have agreed to meet next year or the year following; could not comment on that.

Q Larry.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, Lou. Owen, you're up there.

Q I'd like to ask you if you could perhaps go back over the Gorbachev quote that you said at the beginning that says, "We are having a lively discussion."

MR. SPEAKES: He said, "We're having a lively discussion on everything." And the President said, "Worthwhile discussions." This was in response to the Soviet question.

Q And what was next thing that Gorbachev said?

MR. SPEAKES: Gorbachev said, "The fact that the meeting took place is important. We're proceeding in a careful manner. We look at the problems of the American and Soviet people and others in a careful manner" --

Q -- "problems of concern to the Soviet and American people."

Q Larry, all of this is in a pool report.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. Lesley has a pool report, which is

probably based on a tape and not my notes.

Q When will the tape be played, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: -- and said, "a lively discussion on everything -- frank, businesslike and responsible."

Miles.

Q Larry, to supplement the President's memory and recollection of his conversations with Mr. Gorbachev, is the interpreter also being debriefed in any detail? Can you tell us his name?

MR. SPEAKES: I just don't -- yes, I do not know his name. He's the fellow with the beard that you see in the pictures, but --

Q Did they not change interpreters?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't believe so. I think that fellow is still there today.

Q Isn't he taking notes?

Q They've been using two.

Q Lou. I just don't want to go into any more detail.

Q Larry, isn't the -- usually the interpreters, when they interpret on a little note pad, take very careful notes in order to be able to accurately interpret. Isn't that happening in this case with both interpreters?

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't been in there to tell.

Q Larry.

MR. SPEAKES: Lou.

Q Larry, do you intend, when you come back here at 5:00 p.m., to -- do you believe you will know then what the schedule is tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: Lou, I really can't -- I can't predict as to whether that will be concluded -- that decision would be made this afternoon, or not. I'm just afraid to say.

Andy.

Q On that point, what is your best guidance as to the time that the President will depart for Brussels?

MR. SPEAKES: I think it's 1:30 P.M., I believe is our plan, because we're -- have a meeting in Brussels that we have to be on time for.

Q Larry.

Q Larry.

MR. SPEAKES: Owen.

Q Back on these remarks attributed to Don Regan, have you talked to him about it to find out if he was accurately quoted?

MR. SPEAKES: That -- what about Don Regan?

Q The remarks that Don Regan is alleged to have made concerning women and the summit. Have you talked to him about

whether those were accurate?

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't really talked to him about it, Owen. I'm sorry, I haven't.

Q So you don't know whether he spoke with either the President or Mrs. Reagan, either?

MR. SPEAKES: About those words?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: No. My guess would be no.

Q Is there a White House reaction to that, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q No comment?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

John?

Q Any drafting going on last night or tonight at any of these bilateral --

MR. SPEAKES: I'd just rather not comment on anything along those lines.

Jim.

Q Yes. Would you ask and find out if they are verifying the accounts of the private meetings in any way -- the two sides?

MR. SPEAKES: All I will say on it is that we're very comfortable and confident that what takes place in the private meetings is being retained properly for political, diplomatic, and historical purposes.

Let me work the back a little bit. I've neglected -- you were waiting a long time ago.

Q What I must ask, in practical terms, when the words "frank" and "business-like" are used, it usually means that the -- discussions are very difficult. Now, have you changed the meaning just as the tone changed?

MR. SPEAKES: The word "frank" is not in here. "Business-like" is. And usually bussiness-like is --

Q You said "frank."

Q Larry, you said "frank."

Q Gorbachev said "frank."

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, you're right, he did. I see. I'm sorry.

Q The question is, do you agree with Gorbachev --

Q I thought it was Mikhail Gorbachev.

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Never mind.

MR. SPEAKES: I do not know whether -- you would have to

ask him. I cannot -- I described yesterday's meetings through the conclusion of dinner as "a good atmosphere," agreeing with the Soviets. You would have to ask him what he means by "frank," whether he's speaking in the strict diplomatic definition or not.

Dan.

Q Larry, this question of a record of the private meeting may seem less important than a lot of other things, but in -- at past summits, sometimes problems have arisen because there were less than accurate records kept on one-on-one conversations. Now, when the translation is consecutive, it is very easy for the translator who has to make notes anyway for the purposes of consecutive translation, to then record those notes. When the translation, however, is simultaneous --

MR. SPEAKES: I think in those it may be consecutive.

Q Question.

Q Question.

Q -- it is more difficult to do so. So what I'm asking is, since, obviously, you have not had a chance to find out, whether you could take the question for a later briefing, what method is being used to provide an authentic record of what happened in private conversations?

MR. SPEAKES: Dan feels that the private conversation translation is consecutive and does not follow after each phrase. I think it is not consecutive, Dan. I think they're probably pausing for translation. But once again, I do feel that we are comfortable.

Q That's what consecutive is.

Q That is consecutive.

Q Consecutive is pausing.

Q If they pause for translation, that's consecutive.

MR. SPEAKES: Simultaneous -- it is consecutive.

Q It is consecutive?

MR. SPEAKES: Right.

Q You said yesterday it is simultaneous.

MR. SPEAKES: I know. The sessions in the -- the open sessions are simultaneous, but the private sessions I believe are consecutive.

Q Did the interpreter take notes, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, I'm just not going into the mechanics of how we deal with these meetings.

Let me work over here. Yes, sir.

Q Is Richard Perle involved in any of these debriefings actively with the President?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, he was yesterday. I think he and Ikle have switched off from time to time. But he's there.

Q Is the President asking him a lot of questions? Is he offering up a lot of response?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, it's an active discussion --

vigorous, as the Secretary would describe it.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Joe?

Q To be sure I understand correctly, when you said you can assume the agenda is being continued, you meant followed as opposed to being put off?

MR. SPEAKES: The topics that have been outlined by both sides that would be discussed are being discussed. In what order or how long, we just won't go into that.

Q Another thing, you started to say a while ago, "a business-like normally means" -- and you stopped. Would you continue that sentence?

MR. SPEAKES: Business-like normally means -- and I gave a symbol between "frank" and "business-like."

Q Is it better than frank? (Laughter.)

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Let me go back here, Leo.

Q Can the pool sound be broadcast right after the briefing from the podium?

MR. SPEAKES: It's whatever your colleagues wish to do. We'll make the briefing room and electronic facilities available.

Leo, let me go to Bob and the Carl and then you.

Q Larry, can you tell us how the President is addressing Mr. Gorbachev and how Mr. Gorbachev is addressing the President?

MR. SPEAKES: I'll have to ask that. I don't think it's a first name basis, I think it's either Mr. or by title in both cases.

Q Could you check that --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Just to put this on the record --

MR. SPEAKES: Don't let me forget those --

Q Larry --

Q Just to put this on the record, are you -- will you confirm or deny that either or both the President and the interpreter are wired?

MR. SPEAKES: I think I can safely deny that, yes.

Q Question?

MR. SPEAKES: Are the President or the interpreter wired.

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: If he's wired he's listening to his "Walkman." (Laughter.)

Q Larry, after all the extensive talks the President

had with his advisers in Washington before coming here, are you telling us that it was only after the President arrived in Geneva that his advisers found out about his desire to go into these extensive private meetings -- that this was a spur of the moment decision by the President?

MR. SPEAKES: I think the President has had a good feeling all along about how he wanted to conduct these talks, not only what he wanted to say, but the method in which he wanted to use to say it.

Q But when did he convey that to his top advisers?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I think we've been aware for some time that the President might feel that it was an opportunity to confer privately and if he did so he would exercise that prerogative, which he did twice yesterday.

Q But did he, in fact, in Washington, in days and weeks preceding the summit, make that view known to people around him?

MR. SPEAKES: We were always aware that the President felt that it might be better that some of the sessions be private.

Q But you said this was unexpected.

MR. SPEAKES: It was certainly unexpected that the President would get up in the middle of the meeting and say, "Let's go for a walk," certainly.

Q No, but you just -- unexpected for the -- unexpected length of these private meetings. You people put out the 15 to 30 minutes thing repeatedly before we left --

MR. SPEAKES: I'll be glad to show the staff schedule, Leo, where it shows 15 minutes on it if you're -- if you have a question --

Q I'm coming back to my question. When did you find out that the President really was so desirous of having these very extensive one-on-one's?

MR. SPEAKES: When the meeting -- when the one-on-one meeting concluded, then we knew what the length was, Leo, not before.

Q But in terms of his desire to have it?

MR. SPEAKES: In terms of his desire? As I've told you three times in this same series of questions, the President has expressed to us back in Washington over the last two or three weeks the possible desire that he would exercise in asking the General Secretary to go into a private session. We did not know those were going to take place until the President got there, suggested it, the General Secretary agreed. We did not know how long the meeting was going to last until the meeting was over and we looked at our watches. We did not know when we got to the Soviet Mission this morning that the meeting would continue -- that the private sessions would continue until the President raised it and the General Secretary was obviously planning on it.

So, Mike.

Q Yes, was there any particular impasse or any sort of situation that arose during this meeting -- from the meeting itself -- that caused the President to get up and say, "Let's take a walk," perhaps for the purposes of settling it between the two --

MR. SPEAKES: Quite the contrary.

Q When you said "Quite the contrary," what was the contrary?

MR. SPEAKES: The contrary was 180 degrees from the situation you described.

Q Well, do you mean --

Q In other words, it was so pleasant that he figured he would get up and leave and take a walk?

MR. SPEAKES: You'll have to wait and see.

Owen?

Q Did the President have any reaction or comment on Mr. Gorbachev's meeting yesterday with Jesse Jackson, a known critic of the President, in the middle of their meetings?

MR. SPEAKES: The President did not, no.

Q Larry, I realize this is a little off the subject. Do you have any comment on the Terry Waite situation today, what --

MR. SPEAKES: No, we have nothing new on the Terry Waite situation, Ralph.

Q Did he meet with Murphy in London on Murphy's way here? Did Murphy --

MR. SPEAKES: He met with U.S. officials in London, but I will not tell you who.

Q Larry, what about lunch today?

Q Are you -- will you deny that Murphy met with him in London?

MR. SPEAKES: What about lunch? (Laughter.)

Q No, is the President --

MR. SPEAKES: We're going to have to eat dinner here in a few minutes.

Q Is the President meeting with any Soviet dissident like Mrs. Scharansky --

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: No, there are no plans for the President to meet anyone outside of his administration at lunch today.

Q Larry will you deny that he met with Murphy in London.

MR. SPEAKES: I will not talk about it either way, Ralph.

Q Do you know if the meeting is over?

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: I -- how would I know?

Q Well, you have aides you could tell you.

MR. SPEAKES: Aides have received no bulletin, so I don't know.

Q Larry, one --

MR. ROUSSEL: As soon as this briefing's over, we'll find out.

MR. SPEAKES: They've been hearing every word.

Yes?

Q Larry, one Soviet official apparently did choose to talk this morning and said in reference to SDI that there has been no movement and that the U.S. looks at it religiously. Has SDI been given a thorough examination and is there --

MR. SPEAKES: Once again --

Q Question?

Q Question please, Larry?

Q -- and is the President adamant?

MR. SPEAKES: Has -- a Soviet official has commented on SDI saying there's no movement. Will the United States agree with that? The Soviet -- I will not comment on what the Soviet official has said because I will not break the rule of confidentiality.

Q Larry?

Q Well, has it been given thorough discussion?

MR. SPEAKES: I will not talk about the meeting, sorry.

Q So you are saying we have not moved at all on our position. Did I get that right? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't say anything.

Q You said no movement?

MR. SPEAKES: No, no. He said that.

Q No, the Russians said that. (Laughter.)

Q You know that --

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't say anything. Let's go, Helen, quick before somebody --

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:31 P.M. (L)