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TALKING POINTS

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"A Fresh Start" in U.S.-Soviet Relations

"In a very real sense, preparations for the summit started not months ago but five years ago when -- with the help of Congress -- we began strengthening our economy, restoring our national will, and rebuilding our defenses and alliances. America is once again strong -- and our strength has given us the ability to speak with confidence and see that no opportunity to advance freedom and peace is lost. We must not now abandon policies that work."

- President Ronald Reagan
November 21, 1985

The Summit Concludes on a Positive Note

President Reagan extended an invitation to meet with Soviet Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev after the Soviet leader - the fourth in three years - came to power in March, 1985.

The four-part agenda focused on arms control, human rights, regional conflicts and issues of mutual interest, such as economics and trade.

Afterwards, a joint U.S. - Soviet statement noted the two superpowers had agreed on several items, including the importance of on-going dialogue to resolve serious differences separating the two nations.

Americans Support Reagan's Handling of Foreign Policy

Surveys showed Reagan left for Geneva bearing the strongest support in four years for his foreign policy, as well as the highest rating ever for his handling of relations with the Soviet Union.

Reagan's decision to meet with Gorbachev received the overwhelming support of the American people. And he returned from Geneva to say with confidence: "We moved arms control forward."

What the Superpowers Agreed to Do

The U.S. and the Soviet Union agreed:

- * A nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought.
- * Neither nation will seek to achieve military superiority.
- * To support the acceleration of the work at the arms control talks.

Other agreements included:

* **CONSULATES** - the simultaneous opening of consulates in New York and Kiev.

* **RISK REDUCTION CENTERS** - to study ways to reduce the risk of nuclear war.

* **NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION** - reaffirmation of the commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

* **CHEMICAL WEAPONS** - intensification of bilateral discussions of a chemical weapons ban. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have said they are in favor of a prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles.

* **PROCESS OF DIALOGUE** - agreement to regular U.S. - Soviet meetings in fields including agriculture, housing and the environment.

* **NORTHERN PACIFIC AIR SAFETY** - agreement to measures promoting safety on northern Pacific Ocean air routes.

* **CIVIL AVIATION** - acknowledgement of plans to resume air service between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

* **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** - consultations in Moscow and Washington on specific cooperation that will contribute to the preservation of the environment.

* **EXCHANGE INITIATIVES** - an agreement was signed that will allow for academic and cultural exchanges in new programs that will broaden contacts in science, education, medicine and sports. Plans are to be reviewed at the next meeting.

A Defensive Shield for a Safer World

The president told Gorbachev our nation is pursuing research in strategic defense and that the United States "envisions the possibility of defense systems which could ultimately protect all nations from the threat of nuclear war."

The president said this research would make the world a safer place. "Nations could defend themselves against missile attack and mankind, at long last, could escape the prison of mutual terror - that is my dream."

Open Laboratories, Open Minds

Reagan took steps to assure the Soviet leader that America's continuing research in strategic defenses is intended to promote peace. To demonstrate this, he offered a program of open laboratories that would allow Soviet scientists to see first-hand that our Strategic Defense Initiative does not involve offensive weapons. The agreement also calls for U.S. scientists to visit Soviet labs.

America Wants Real Peace

President Reagan told Gorbachev that America is a peaceful nation that desires improved relations with the Soviet Union. We do not seek nuclear superiority and our fundamental objective is to eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.

While America is ready and eager for progress, the agreement to continue meeting is important. Action and progress can take place, Reagan said, when "people are talking to each other instead of about each other."

'Steady' is the Byword

Progress is a step by step process. "While the summit itself was a good start . . . our byword must be 'steady as we go,'" Reagan said.

Real peace is not just the absence of war. As President Reagan pointed out, "We don't want a phony peace or a frail peace; we did not go in pursuit of illusory detente. We can't be satisfied with cosmetic improvements that won't stand the test of time. We want real peace."

The Key to Peace

While Reagan termed the summit "constructive," he noted "I cannot claim that we had a meeting of the minds on such fundamentals as ideology or national purpose - but we understand each other better and that's a key to peace."

"An Opportunity to Build a World of Peace, of Freedom . . ."

As he prepared to leave Geneva, President Reagan said, "I leave Geneva and our fireside summit determined to pursue every opportunity to build a world of peace, of freedom . . . We've reached some useful interim results . . . In agreeing to accelerate the work of nuclear arms negotiators, Mr. Gorbachev and I have addressed our common responsibility to strengthen peace. I believe we have established the process for more intensive contacts between the U.S. and the Soviet Union."

The Task Ahead

President Reagan recognizes that the road ahead for U.S. - Soviet relations is one that is fraught with difficulties. But the president believes the dangers of the nuclear age impel us to address political solutions, even though our differences on fundamentals will not change.

As the president continues the task of strengthening peace and international stability, he deserves the support of all Americans.

More Meetings in the Quest for Peace

Reagan and Gorbachev have agreed to meet again. Gorbachev will come to the U.S. in 1986; President Reagan will go to the Soviet Union in 1987.

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