

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADZE  
New York, October 24, 1985, 4:00 P.M.

Talking Points

- Appreciate your making time for meeting.
- In my speech today I tried to deal with a set of issues which has cast a heavy burden on U.S.-Soviet relations. We want to deal with them constructively, and I hope that you and Mr. Gorbachev will think seriously about them.
- If we can make progress toward solution of any of these conflicts during our Geneva meeting, this could have a very positive effect on the whole span of our relations.
- We are studying your recent arms control proposals with great care. We see some positive elements, although you doubtless understand that some of the elements are not acceptable to us.
- We will get back to you with concrete ideas of our own shortly.
- As I told you in Washington, I instructed our people to propose some more imaginative ideas for communication and cooperation between our peoples. I understand Ambassador Hartman presented some of them to you last week. They have my enthusiastic endorsement.
- I would hope that Mr. Gorbachev and I could announce agreement on some of these ideas, at least in principle, when we meet in Geneva. What do you think?
- I am glad you will be meeting with George Shultz several times more before the Geneva meeting. We still have a lot to do.
- Frankly, I'm beginning to be disturbed by the slow pace of substantive preparations. Even the negotiations on bilateral issues seem to be victims of footdragging from your side.
- Of course, if you are not interested in them, that's fine. But it seems a pity to miss this opportunity to restore some of the normal ties between our countries.
- Please let Mr. Gorbachev know that I am still very much looking forward to our meeting. But I would hope that you and George will give our various negotiators a push to achieve some real progress in the short time we have remaining.

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NLRR F06-114/3 #7927

BY AW NARA DATE 10/30/07

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SESSION:

-- I have one other important message for the General Secretary, but I will pass it on orally, off the official record.

-- I am deeply disturbed at the lack of any evidence that the Soviet side understands the importance of resolving some of the important humanitarian issues which burden our relationship.

-- This issue will be a heavy burden on our meeting unless there are concrete moves by the Soviet authorities to solve some of these problems.

-- I would like to concentrate on other matters at Geneva. But if there is no progress, there will be no way I can ignore the problem.

-- The lack of action, quite frankly, makes me wonder whether Mr. Gorbachev is really serious about improving our relationship.

-- Just let him know that I am watching for actions in this area as a clear signal of serious intent. If there is no progress, it will certainly make everything else more difficult.

TALKING POINTS--MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADZE, NEW YORK, OCTOBER 24, 1985, 4:00 P.M.

- APPRECIATE YOUR MAKING TIME FOR MEETING.
- IN MY SPEECH TODAY I TRIED TO DEAL WITH A SET OF ISSUES WHICH HAS CAST A HEAVY BURDEN ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. WE WANT TO DEAL WITH THEM CONSTRUCTIVELY, AND I HOPE THAT YOU AND MR. GORBACHEV WILL THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT THEM.
- IF WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION OF ANY OF THESE CONFLICTS DURING OUR GENEVA MEETING, THIS COULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE WHOLE SPAN OF OUR RELATIONS.
- WE ARE STUDYING YOUR RECENT ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS WITH GREAT CARE. WE SEE SOME POSITIVE ELEMENTS, ALTHOUGH YOU DOUBTLESS UNDERSTAND THAT SOME OF THE ELEMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US.
- WE WILL GET BACK TO YOU WITH CONCRETE IDEAS OF OUR OWN SHORTLY.

DECLASSIFIED/RE/CAS/D

NLRR FO6-114/3 #7928

BY CAS NARA DATE 10/30/07

- AS I TOLD YOU IN WASHINGTON, I INSTRUCTED OUR PEOPLE TO PROPOSE SOME MORE IMAGINATIVE IDEAS FOR COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES. I UNDERSTAND AMBASSADOR HARTMAN PRESENTED SOME OF THEM TO YOU LAST WEEK. THEY HAVE MY ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT.
- I WOULD HOPE THAT MR. GORBACHEV AND I COULD ANNOUNCE AGREEMENT ON SOME OF THESE IDEAS, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, WHEN WE MEET IN GENEVA. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
- I AM GLAD YOU WILL BE MEETING WITH GEORGE SHULTZ SEVERAL TIMES MORE BEFORE THE GENEVA MEETING. WE STILL HAVE A LOT TO DO.
- FRANKLY, I'M BEGINNING TO BE DISTURBED BY THE SLOW PACE OF SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS. EVEN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL ISSUES SEEM TO BE VICTIMS OF FOOTDRAGGING FROM YOUR SIDE.
- OF COURSE, IF YOU ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THEM, THAT'S FINE. BUT IT SEEMS A PITY TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RESTORE SOME OF THE

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TALKING POINTS--PRIVATE SESSION WITH SHEVARDNADZE, NEW YORK, OCTOBER 24, 1985

- I HAVE ONE OTHER IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARY, BUT I WILL PASS IT ON ORALLY, OFF THE OFFICIAL RECORD.
- I AM DEEPLY DISTURBED AT THE LACK OF ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET SIDE UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING SOME OF THE IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN ISSUES WHICH BURDEN OUR RELATIONSHIP.
- THIS ISSUE WILL BE A HEAVY BURDEN ON OUR MEETING UNLESS THERE ARE CONCRETE MOVES BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO SOLVE SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS.
- I WOULD LIKE TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHER MATTERS AT GENEVA. BUT IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS, THERE WILL BE NO WAY I CAN IGNORE THE PROBLEM.
- THE LACK OF ACTION, QUITE FRANKLY, MAKES ME WONDER WHETHER MR. GORBACHEV IS REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING OUR RELATIONSHIP.

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