

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~TALKING POINTS FOR THE SECRETARY'S USEWITH DOBRYNIN -- JULY 2, 1984

- I think that you gathered last night a first-hand sense of the President's seriousness about getting substantive arms control talks moving forward.
- He carefully studied Mr. Chernenko's last letter and has prepared this letter today in reply. It does not try to address all of the issues between us, but concentrates on a problem Mr. Chernenko focused on--what he called the "militarization of outer space."
- The President confirms what we indicated to your Embassy last Friday night. We accept your proposal of earlier that day to meet September 18 in Vienna.
- As we have indicated in our statement on Friday, the militarization of space began when the ballistic missiles were tested and when such missiles and other weapons systems using outer space began to be deployed.
- We have noted what you wish to discuss in Vienna. We will be prepared to address those issues. We have identified issues we plan to raise as well.
- As the President notes in his letter, we anticipate that we will come to Vienna with constructive suggestions both on the question of resuming negotiations on offensive nuclear systems and on negotiating approaches to ASAT limitations.
- I wish to make one point very clear: contrary to initial press commentary, we have set no preconditions for these talks in September.
- The U.S. and Soviet Union need not agree to any common agenda on those talks. The U.S. is prepared to meet at the time and place the Soviet Union has proposed, and to address the issues the Soviet Union has proposed, in addition to which, the U.S. side will raise other issues.
- The U.S. believes that it is important to consult privately on more detailed preparations and groundwork for this meeting in order to assure that it is fruitful.
- As the President has indicated, we see this meeting as a valuable opportunity for businesslike and constructive exchanges through which we might work out mutually acceptable approaches to arms control negotiations. We are serious about using this opportunity to make progress.

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- Thus, we are prepared to refrain from any further public comment on these discussions if you will do the same. Our preference is to pursue this question quietly through private diplomatic channels.
  
- I would further note that on several recent occasions, the Soviet Government has stated that the upcoming U.S. Presidential election has no bearing on its policies in this regard. I can confirm to you the same holds true for us. As the President's letter indicates, if the Soviet side wishes to hold these talks after the election in late November or December as opposed to September, that is acceptable to us as well.
  
- I hope that in your consultations in Moscow, you will personally underscore the seriousness and positive manner in which we are seeking to handle your proposal.