

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Coordination Office, NSC: Records,
1983-1989

Folder Title: Minutes – Soviet Meeting 11/13/1987,
6:00 pm – Roosevelt Room

Box: RAC Box 22

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

MEETING WITH SOVIET ADVANCE TEAM
Roosevelt Room
November 12, 1987

LTG Powell relayed to the Soviets that this is a business meeting -- we will get to the level of detail on the attendees of the four meetings that we have proposed such as whether they will be one on one or more inclusive, later on in our discussions.

Following are notes from Chernyshev - Chief, Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USSR. These comments are strictly a rundown of their draft agenda.

Thank you for the presentation of your agenda. To a certain extent, it takes into account our earlier discussion. I repeat, to a certain extent. When we spoke to Secretary Shultz several months ago, he said our remarks and concerns would be taken into account to the maximum degree. We think that your draft agenda is currently unbalanced from a Protocol standpoint. For instance, there is only one event from our side -- whereas on the American side there are just many.

(Ambassador Roosevelt response: This is a normal agenda for a State Visit that we host.)

We understand that maybe you will understand us as well. To get our response we will need to give you our response. Perhaps we will need to work in a smaller group. We will need to go and consider this. We need an hour break to study your draft agenda. You must understand that the program that has been worked out is not one just worked out by the protocol office alone. It has been approved by others. That is why we would be following our draft agenda from yesterday. We will try and work out something. We must continue to work and be constructive.

Note: Chernyshev, Sherbakov and Dokychaev followed Tom Griscom, Colin Powell, Roz Ridgway and Ambassador Roosevelt into Griscom's office to work behind closed doors. They remained there for approximately 20 minutes, where they discussed in greater detail our concerns about a joint session of Congress, the Vice President's breakfast, and briefly Mrs. Reagan's agenda. At 8:00 p.m. the Soviet delegation returned to the Roosevelt Room to continue our discussions. Their question was technical pertaining to their flight requirements: IL 76 flight...we will have one ton of equipment and 5 technicians bringing equipment needed to establish our communication links. We need your assistance with this equipment. These people will arrive on November 16. We would ask that you set aside our radio frequency beginning November 16. (Roz and Lucky were designated by Tommy to work out these details, which is typical procedure). The discussion regarding the exact agenda proceeds.....

We must add again the program that we have brought is not one exercised by protocol. We bring a draft agreed upon by Moscow. We worked on this draft in Moscow and we wish to show our ability

to work constructively with you. We will work in a constructive way. However, we have limited freedom to maneuver. We work jointly. We will work to make the draft as close as the draft we proposed.

We will arrive at 4:25 p.m. on December 7. We accept that Secretary and Mrs. Shultz will greet at the airport. We will arrive at 5:05 p.m. at the residence. The question of hotel space remains open. (Lengthy discussion ensued about availability of hotel space between Mrs. Roosevelt and Bunny Murdock) We need a hotel for security purposes for all of us and for ourselves. Regarding the "tour" on the way from Andrews to the White House, the General needs to determine this. This will be a short ride. It should be fast and a clean route. (Griffin suggested that a Monday rush hour arrival limited any tour that they could take, that they ought to plan to go directly to their residence and make it a fast, clean commute from the airport)

Tuesday, December 8. 10:00 a.m. okay we will prevail on Moscow and use your arguments for an early arrival ceremony. We understand that both sides will give brief address/remarks at this ceremony. Talks with the President will begin at 11:45 a.m. We will leave one hour open for lunch. There will be a tea party given for Mrs. Gorbachev that morning. (We give great importance to this agenda) We will have a private lunch in the residence (assume they mean their own private lunch) INF agreement signing. On the 8th or the 9th we need to know why (Tom Griscom explained eloquently our desires to sign the INF early-on in the official visit leaving time in the agenda for the opportunity to pursue other substantive matters). Comment from the Soviets -- we accept your reasons, I will leave the INF agreement signing ceremony on the 8th as your draft shows...I'm a kind person. I must, however, receive approval from Moscow, but I intend to speak out in support of it.

Leave open the period following the signing ceremony. We would like to have one event organized at our embassy. 5:00 p.m. Ambassador Dubinin would host a meeting and cocktails --- when I say meeting I mean for the General Secretary to meet with people invited --- these would be from the academic community and intellectuals from the United States. At 7:00 p.m. we would have the State Dinner at the White House with entertainment following. To clarify, we agreed with the meetings earlier, namely four meetings. Does the American side want another meeting during that open timeframe. I don't quite understand. (Tom and Colin both agreed, no, that we didn't...in fairness we were not as direct when we first laid out our agenda as we should have been. This question was an appropriate one for the Soviets to ask).

December 9, Wednesday. Breakfast with Vice President Bush at the Embassy. Bush can decide himself the people to be invited to the embassy. I don't think we would invite people from the Soviet side that would be disliked by the Vice President, but he can decide. We would like to change the time slightly. Breakfast at 8:30 with brief discussions with the Vice President and the General Secretary. Breakfast proper would begin at 8:45 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. we would continue talks with President Reagan. At 12:30 p.m. lunch with Secretary Shultz at the State Department.

2:30 p.m. talks resume at the White House. 7:00 p.m. official dinner at the Soviet Embassy.

(Tom Griscom asked about the Vice President's breakfast. Said that the VP wanted a small breakfast with future-thinking people and that we would have to take their idea back to the Vice President for approval. Soviets responded that they accepted the American side numbers for the breakfast.) They okayed the general outline for December 9 and added that they okayed the ladies coffee joined by the two leaders at 3:45 p.m. They did ask some specifics about the coffee. Griscom assured them that it would be a nice affair and one that would be intimate, i.e., one-on-one with the ladies with the two gentlemen joining them after a period of time. This will take place in the residence.

December 10. Your breakfast time. We have some misgivings. Does the President leave when the 9:00 a.m. meeting with Senate leaders begin? We responded: yes, after the breakfast the President would leave. Tom Griscom decided to review December 10 again to make sure the Soviets understood very clearly our intent regarding the Congressional activities. The following is from Tom: Begin again. 8:00 a.m. breakfast meeting with House and Senate leaders and RR and the General Secretary with brief exchange of messages. The General Secretary and the President would both speak. We would anticipate that the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leaders would also make brief remarks. We would have to inquire and work this out with them. The Soviets were concerned about the length of these talks given that they would have to be translated and that it is only a breakfast lasting one hour. They asked if the messages would be in the form of a toast, would they be made at the table, or would they be made from a podium. Griscom and Powell said that that was a very good point and that we could see that the President and the General Secretary would speak longer than Congressional members.

Continued the discussions. Soviets concerned about what we meant by leadership, did that mean the full leadership and what did this include? We supplied them a full list of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Leadership. This numbered nearly 60 people. (They seemed to understand our format and took it on board). Griscom continues recapping the day to be very clear as the Soviets seemed somewhat confused when he first went through his agenda. 10:30 a.m. US industry reps would meet with the General Secretary at a location determined by you. We

suspect that that will be the Embassy. 12:00 noon the fourth meeting between the General Secretary and the President would begin. At 12:30 the two leaders would be joined by other members of the summit activities. They would join them in the Family Dining Room. This, of course, would depend on how the fourth meeting proceeded...perhaps the two leaders would have lunch alone. 2:00 p.m. we would have a signing ceremony and/or joint statement and this would be the conclusion of the Official Visit. At 3:00 p.m. we would assume that you would have your scheduled news conference, the location to be determined. We want you to understand that like the General Secretary the President wishes to address the people of his country - the American people. We don't wish to have a conflict with the departure of Gorbachev.

4

We intend that the President will address the American people no earlier than 8:00 and no later than 9:00 (Comment: Soviets nodded their heads, seemed to understand and the meeting ended with some light-hearted comments). One additional question asked as they began to depart, was did we know the composition/participation of the meetings. General Powell and Roz Ridgway explained that no we did not have that list that we assumed that it would be handled in the normal manner which would include the President, Secretary of State, the Chief of Staff, and the National Security Advisor to the President. He ended the list there and the Soviets departed.