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1983-1989

**Folder Title:** 110. Meeting with Suzanne Massie  
09/03/1985

**Box:** RAC Box 9

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SIGNED

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: JACK F. MATLOCK *JFM*

SUBJECT: Second Letter from Suzanne Massie

Suzanne Massie has sent another letter to the President (Tab B) following their recent telephone conversation. I believe the briefing memorandum for their September 3 meeting should be revised to reflect their most recent correspondence. To update the action, I have made the necessary revisions to Tab I (briefing memo) and Tab A (talking points) which are attached.

*JM*  
Jonathan Miller concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the revised memo at Tab I.

Approve

*m*

Disapprove

\_\_\_\_\_

Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum for the President

Tab A Talking Points

Tab B Letter from Suzanne Massie, August 10, 1985

Tab C Letter from Suzanne Massie, July 28, 1985

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8506518

RECEIVED 21 AUG 85 18

TO MCFARLANE

FROM MATLOCK

DOCDATE 19 AUG 85

KLYWORDS. USSR

AP

MASSIE, SUZANNE

SUBJECT: PRES 3 SEP MTG W/ MASSIE / TALKING POINTS

ACTION: FWD TO PRES FOR DECISION

DUE: 23 AUG 85 STATUS X

FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MCFARLANE

MILLER

PEARSON

CLEVELAND

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG 8506276

NSCIFID

( JM )

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE

(C)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 19, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: JACK F. MATLOCK *JFM*SUBJECT: The President's Meeting with Suzanne Massie,  
September 3, 1985

Attached at Tab I for your signature is a memorandum for the President regarding his meeting with Suzanne Massie. Given their friendship the talking points provided are brief.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments:

Tab I	Memorandum for the President
Tab A	Talking Points
Tab B	Letter from Suzanne Massie

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

DATE: September 3, 1985

LOCATION: Oval Office

TIME: 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

I. PURPOSE

To discuss U.S.-Soviet relations prior to Suzanne's return to the Soviet Union, and inquire on the progress of her new book.

II. BACKGROUND

In response to her letter of July 28, you phoned and agreed to see Suzanne prior to her departure for the Soviet Union. Suzanne is currently writing a book on the Pavlovsk Palace in Leningrad.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President  
The Vice President (at his discretion)  
Chief of Staff Regan (at his discretion)  
Robert C. McFarlane  
Suzanne Massie  
Jack F. Matlock

IV. PRESS PLAN

Private meeting.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Informal open discussion.

Prepared by:  
Jack F. Matlock

## Attachment:

Tab A Talking Points  
Tab B Letter from Suzanne Massie

TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING

WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

THE OVAL OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1985

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- You know the Russians so well. What do you think I should bear in mind most as I get ready for my meeting with Gorbachev?
  
- The Soviets still seem more interested in playing propaganda games than in getting down to serious negotiation. Is there anything we can do to influence them to get serious?
  
- What do you think Gorbachev wants out of our meeting?
  
- I wish you a good trip and look forward to hearing your impressions when you return.

TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH  
SUZANNE MASSIE- SEPTEMBER 3, 1985 AT 9:45 AM

-- YOU KNOW THE RUSSIANS SO WELL. WHAT DO  
YOU THINK I SHOULD BEAR IN MIND MOST AS I GET  
READY FOR MY MEETING WITH GORBACHEV?

-- THE SOVIETS STILL SEEM MORE INTERESTED IN  
PLAYING PROPAGANDA GAMES THAN IN GETTING DOWN  
TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATION. IS THERE ANYTHING WE  
CAN DO TO INFLUENCE THEM TO GET SERIOUS?

2

-- WHAT DO YOU THINK GORBACHEV WANTS OUT OF  
OUR MEETING?

-- I WISH YOU A GOOD TRIP AND LOOK FORWARD  
TO HEARING YOUR IMPRESSIONS WHEN YOU RETURN.

Deer Isle, Maine 04627

July 28, 1985

BR

Dear Mr. President,

I know that you are and have been deluged with letters and I simply wanted to add my voice to the millions of Americans who prayed for you and are continuing to pray for your continued good health and strength.

Just now, I am on an isolated island in Maine living in the forest ten miles from the nearest town working on my book on Pavlovsk palace in Leningrad, I get news very rarely, I have no TV, no radio and get newspapers every ten days. It made me so happy to see the New York Times picture of you returning to the White House looking so cheerful and fit. How do you do it Superman? I know I couldn't. You are certainly an extraordinary example of American grit and courage for all of us.

So I just wanted to let you know that however isolated I am, I have thought of you so much these days and so have many, many people on Deer Isle. Stay better and get better and better and better. We need you.

With all best wishes,

  
Suzanne Massie

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Bud - I called her.  
She is going back to Russia  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> - said she'd like very  
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I told her I'd like that too & that  
I'd tell you about it. We get back from



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 19, 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

JACK F. MATLOCK *JSM*

SUBJECT:

The President's Meeting with Suzanne Massie,  
September 3, 1985

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Miller concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments:

Tab I	Memorandum for the President
Tab A	Talking Points
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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

DATE: September 3, 1985  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

I. PURPOSE

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In response to her letter of July 28, you phoned and agreed to see Suzanne prior to her departure for the Soviet Union. Suzanne is currently writing a book on the Pavlovsk Palace in Leningrad.

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Deer Isle, Maine 04627

July 28, 1985

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Just now, I am on an isolated island in Maine living in the forest ten miles from the nearest town working on my book on Pavlovsk palace in Leningrad, I get news very rarely, I have no TV, no radio and get newspapers every ten days. It made me so happy to see the New York Times picture of you returning to the White House looking so cheerful and fit. How do you do it Superman? I know I couldn't. You are certainly an extraordinary example of American grit and courage for all of us.

So I just wanted to let you know that however isolated I am, I have thought of you so much these days and so have many, many people on Deer Isle. Stay better and get better and better and better. We need you.

With all best wishes,

  
Suzanne Massie

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

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KEYWORDS. USSR

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MASSIE, SUZANNE

SUBJECT: PRES 3 SEP MTG W/ MASSIE / TALKING POINTS

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(C)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 19, 1985

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Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments:

Tab I	Memorandum for the President
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Tab B	Letter from Suzanne Massie

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

DATE: September 3, 1985  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
  
FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

I. PURPOSE

To discuss U.S.-Soviet relations prior to Suzanne's return to the Soviet Union, and inquire on the progress of her new book.

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In response to her letter of July 28, you phoned and agreed to see Suzanne prior to her departure for the Soviet Union. Suzanne is currently writing a book on the Pavlovsk Palace in Leningrad.

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TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING

WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

THE OVAL OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1985

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- You know the Russians so well. What do you think I should bear in mind most as I get ready for my meeting with Gorbachev?
- The Soviets still seem more interested in playing propaganda games than in getting down to serious negotiation. Is there anything we can do to influence them to get serious?
- What do you think Gorbachev wants out of our meeting?
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TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH  
SUZANNE MASSIE- SEPTEMBER 3, 1985 AT 9:45 AM

-- YOU KNOW THE RUSSIANS SO WELL. WHAT DO  
YOU THINK I SHOULD BEAR IN MIND MOST AS I GET  
READY FOR MY MEETING WITH GORBACHEV?

-- THE SOVIETS STILL SEEM MORE INTERESTED IN  
PLAYING PROPAGANDA GAMES THAN IN GETTING DOWN  
TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATION. IS THERE ANYTHING WE  
CAN DO TO INFLUENCE THEM TO GET SERIOUS?

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-- WHAT DO YOU THINK GORBACHEV WANTS OUT OF  
OUR MEETING?

-- I WISH YOU A GOOD TRIP AND LOOK FORWARD  
TO HEARING YOUR IMPRESSIONS WHEN YOU RETURN.

Deer Isle, Maine 04627

July 28, 1985

BR

Dear Mr. President,

I know that you are and have been deluged with letters and I simply wanted to add my voice to the millions of Americans who prayed for you and are continuing to pray for your continued good health and strength.

Just now, I am on an isolated island in Maine living in the forest ten miles from the nearest town working on my book on Pavlovsk palace in Leningrad, I get news very rarely, I have no TV, no radio and get newspapers every ten days. It made me so happy to see the New York Times picture of you returning to the White House looking so cheerful and fit. How do you do it Superman? I know I couldn't. You are certainly an extraordinary example of American grit and courage for all of us.

So I just wanted to let you know that however isolated I am, I have thought of you so much these days and so have many, many people on Deer Isle. Stay better and get better and better and better. We need you.

With all best wishes,

  
Suzanne Massie

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Bud - I called her.  
She is going back to Russia  
Sept. 23rd - said she'd like very  
much to see me before she leaves.  
I told her I'd like that too & that  
I'd tell you about it. We got back from

*Miller*NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 19, 1985

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

JACK F. MATLOCK *JFM*

SUBJECT:

The President's Meeting with Suzanne Massie,  
September 3, 1985

Attached at Tab I for your signature is a memorandum for the President regarding his meeting with Suzanne Massie. Given their friendship the talking points provided are brief.

*Jan*  
Miller concurs.RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

## Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum for the President  
Tab A Talking Points  
Tab B Letter from Suzanne Massie

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 30, 1985

MEETING WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

DATE: September 3, 1985  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE *RCM*I. PURPOSE

To discuss U.S.-Soviet relations prior to Suzanne's return to the Soviet Union, and inquire on the progress of her new book.

II. BACKGROUND

In response to her letter of July 28, you phoned and agreed to see Suzanne prior to her departure for the Soviet Union. Suzanne is currently writing a book on the Pavlovsk Palace in Leningrad.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President  
The Vice President (at his discretion)  
Chief of Staff Regan (at his discretion)  
Robert C. McFarlane  
Suzanne Massie  
Jack F. Matlock

IV. PRESS PLAN

Private meeting.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Informal open discussion.

Prepared by:  
Jack F. Matlock

## Attachment:

Tab A Talking Points  
Tab B Letter from Suzanne Massie, August 28, 1985  
Tab C Letter from Suzanne Massie, July 10, 1985

cc: Vice President  
Donald Regan

Deer Isle, Maine 04627  
August 10, 1985

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

You would have laughed had you seen my youngest daughter's face when she came in to get me as I was trying inexpertly to pound a forged iron lamp into a resistant log wall. " Mom," she said, a little ashen faced, "It's President Reagan!" I smiled and kept on pounding. " No," she said, " I'm not kidding. It is, really!"

It was indeed a wonderful unexpected surprise to hear your voice a few days ago, and how very kind it was of you to take the time to call me. Of course I hope you will make allowance for my being a bit startled, but I am sure that by now you are used to that effect you have on people.

What was best was to hear your voice so strong and well despite your recent operation. I was happy to hear that not only were you feeling better, but that you were even contemplating riding horseback!. Still, I hope that despite your extraordinarily rugged constitution and true grit, you will be careful.

As we discussed, I had a quite unusually productive trip to the Soviet Union this spring. I spent over two months there, returning only in mid-June, working on my book about the restoration of one of the palaces outside Leningrad. The saga of the Russian people's determination to rebuild their lost past despite the onslaughts of both Communism and Nazism is exciting -- a universal story that reflects on the marvelous capacity of human beings to dedicate themselves to ideals of spirituality and beauty despite all disasters.

~~Page 2~~

While I was in the Soviet Union I was treated, as indeed I have always been treated by ordinary Russian citizens, with great hospitality and generosity. Because of the many and varied contacts I have built up there over so many years, I saw a broad spectrum of people both humble and mighty, and I believe I can say that few, if any foreigners, have recently been accorded such a broad arena of contact.

Quite unexpectedly, while I was in Leningrad, Mr. Gorbachev, to whom I had sent two of my books, responded with a cordial and personal message about my work. I have written him a letter of thanks and requested a meeting with him to discuss various matters pertaining to my new book.

Certainly there is a significant change in the atmosphere there at this time. Never, in the almost 20 years I have known the Soviet Union, have I seen anything quite like it. Of course it is far too soon to tell whether this movement and new expectations are only momentary or if they signify something more substantial and lasting. History dictates skepticism. I am still waiting to see whether Mr. Gorbachev is a patriot of his country or, as his predecessors have been, merely of the Party. Clearly the people long for a change. I heard a great deal of quite open griping. They have suffered so much and patiently endured for so long. It is time for a change, and I had no hesitation about telling that to every official I met and in no uncertain terms.

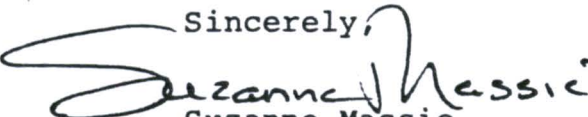
Given the Soviet propensity for often preferring to express themselves through private contacts, I was also treated to many hours of official conversation with varied spokesmen. Some of these were surprisingly candid, openly admitting problems and shortcomings and laying out an agenda. I kept precise notes of what was communicated to me by those spokesmen whom I knew were in a position to pass on official attitudes cleared at the highest levels. It is these commentaries which I think might be valuable to you at this time. If it could be useful to you, I would be happy to present some of these comments to you in a concise and organized form

and perhaps answer any specific questions you might have. If there any chance that your schedule might permit a brief meeting sometime during the first three weeks of September? I return to New York on September 3 and will be leaving for the Soviet Union on September 24 to continue my research as one of the scholars on our official exchange program with the Academy of Sciences, and will be returning only in early December.

And please let me say again that if, when I am in the Soviet Union I can do anything to help you, I would be happy and honored to serve you and our country with whatever talents and knowledge I have.

Just now, before I go back to the rigorous life in the USSR, I am reveling in these last golden days of summer. The Maine coast -- all jewel blue and green -- is splendid, one of the treasures of our magnificent country. I hope you will have a good rest in your beloved California. And thank you again for the deep pleasure you gave me by calling as you did.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Reagan,

Sincerely,  
  
Suzanne Massie

p.s. As for TASS. Don't take their rantings and ravings too seriously. The Russians don't. To their credit, they resolutely maintain a lively affection and respect for our country despite all the Big Lies that are thrown at them every day.

TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING

WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

THE OVAL OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1985

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- You know the Russians so well. What do you think I should bear in mind most as I get ready for my meeting with Gorbachev?
  
- The Soviets still seem more interested in playing propaganda games than in getting down to serious negotiation. Is there anything we can do to influence them to get serious?
  
- What do you think Gorbachev wants out of our meeting?
  
- I wish you a good trip and look forward to hearing your impressions when you return.



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

DATE: September 3, 1985

LOCATION: Oval Office

TIME: 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

I. PURPOSE

To discuss U.S.-Soviet relations prior to Suzanne's return to the Soviet Union, and inquire on the progress of her new book.

II. BACKGROUND

In response to her letter of July 28, you phoned and agreed to see Suzanne prior to her departure for the Soviet Union. Suzanne is currently writing a book on the Pavlovsk Palace in Leningrad.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President  
The Vice President (at his discretion)  
Chief of Staff Regan (at his discretion)  
Robert C. McFarlane  
Suzanne Massie  
Jack F. Matlock

IV. PRESS PLAN

Private meeting.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Informal open discussion.

Prepared by:  
Jack F. Matlock

## Attachment:

Tab A Talking Points  
Tab B Letter from Suzanne Massie

UNCLAS

CLASSIFICATION

CIRCLE ONE BELOW

MODE

PAGES 12

**IMMEDIATE**

SECURE FAX # 530

DTG 310046

PRIORITY

ADMIN FAX # \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASED WKC

ROUTINE

RECORD # \_\_\_\_\_

FROM/LOCATION

1. THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

1. ADMIRAL POINDEXTER / SITTO# 306 / SANTA BARBARA CA / TOR: 310130Z

INFORMATION ADDRESSEES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Deliver ASAP  
Decision ~~at~~ Needed

NSC 6518

85 AUG 31 P 9:31

CLASSIFICATION

Deer Isle, Maine 04627

July 28, 1985

BC

Dear Mr. President,

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So I just wanted to let you know that however isolated I am, I have thought of you so much these days and so have many, many people on Deer Isle. Stay better and get better and better and better. We need you.

With all best wishes,

*Suzanne Massie*  
Suzanne Massie

President Ronald Reagan  
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TALKING POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING

WITH SUZANNE MASSIE

THE OVAL OFFICE, SEPTEMBER 3, 1985

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

- Thank you so much for your letters and for sharing your thoughts on your trip to the Soviet Union earlier this spring.
  
- You know the Russians so well. What do you think I should bear in mind most as I get ready for my meeting with Gorbachev?
  
- The Soviets still seem more interested in playing propaganda games than in getting down to serious negotiation. Is there anything we can do to influence them to get serious?
  
- What do you think Gorbachev wants out of our meeting?
  
- I wish you a good trip and look forward to hearing your impressions when you return.

Deer Isle, Maine 04627  
July 28, 1985

BK

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Just now, I am on an isolated island in Maine living in the forest ten miles from the nearest town working on my book on Pavlovsk palace in Leningrad, I get news very rarely, I have no TV, no radio and get newspapers every ten days. It made me so happy to see the New York Times picture of you returning to the White House looking so cheerful and fit. How do you do it Superman? I know I couldn't. You are certainly an extraordinary example of American grit and courage for all of us.

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With all best wishes,

  
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The White House  
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