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## THE WHITE HOUSE

## Office of the Press Secretary

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FOR RELEASE AT 8:00 PM EST  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1985

FACT SHEET

## President's Address to the Nation

In his Address to the Nation, President Reagan discusses his hopes and objectives on the eve of his departure for the Geneva meeting with Soviet Party General Secretary Gorbachev. He defines his mission as "a mission for peace." The President reviews U.S. policy in the four areas of the Geneva agenda, and outlines new U.S. initiatives to increase people-to-people contacts and open new lines of communication and cooperation.

Overview: A Mission for Peace

-- It is the President's hope that in Geneva he and General Secretary Gorbachev can begin a "dialogue for peace that endures beyond my Presidency."

-- His objective is to begin a process of "facing our differences frankly and openly, and beginning to narrow and resolve them; communicating effectively so that our actions and intentions are not misunderstood and eliminating the barriers between us and cooperating wherever possible for the greater good of all."

-- When the President speaks of peace, he does not mean just the absence of war: true peace "rests upon the pillars of human rights, individual freedom, national self-determination and respect for the rule of law."

-- Therefore, we seek to make progress on all four fronts of the agenda for Geneva:

- o reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear arsenals, and moving toward defensive systems that threaten no one;

- o ending regional conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Central America that carry the seeds of wider war;

- o pursuing bilateral issues, including the inauguration of an unprecedented series of people-to-people exchanges; and

- o addressing human rights guaranteed by international agreements.

-- The President does not underestimate the difficulty of the task. Building a safer future, however, requires that we address candidly all the issues which divide us. "We should seek to reduce the suspicions and mistrust that have led us to acquire mountains of strategic weapons."

-- Success should not be measured by short-term agreements: "only the passage of time will tell us whether we constructed a durable bridge to a safer world."

Reducing Nuclear Arsenals and Risk of War: "We Have Gone the Extra Mile" for Greater Security

-- In 1977, and 1982, the U.S. proposed deep reciprocal cuts in strategic forces.

-- In 1981, the U.S. proposed the complete elimination of a whole class of intermediate range nuclear forces.

-- In 1984, the U.S. presented a draft treaty for a global ban on chemical weapons.

-- The U.S. has also made proposals in various forums for improving verification for nuclear testing limitations and for confidence-building measures.

-- The President is pleased that the Soviet leadership has begun talking about reductions and has presented its proposals in Geneva.

-- We are prepared for 50 percent reductions in comparable nuclear systems to result in a stable balance, with no first strike capability, and full compliance. U.S. negotiators have instructions to pursue this in Geneva. "If we both reduce the weapons of war, there would be no losers, only winners."

-- The whole world would also benefit "if we could both abandon these weapons altogether and move to non-nuclear defensive systems which destroy weapons, not people."

#### Ending Regional Conflicts: Building a Safer World

-- Arms control is not the whole answer; we must remove all sources of tension.

-- The President, in his UNGA speech, proposed a "regional peace plan" that calls for progress at three levels:

- 1) Negotiation among the warring parties, and internal reconciliation;
- 2) United States-Soviet discussions to support the process; and
- 3) Economic reconstruction.

-- The President's initiative aims to break the pattern of five key conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Central America -- in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Angola, and Nicaragua.

-- The President will pursue those promising initiatives in Geneva.

#### Freedom and Democracy: The Best Guarantors of Peace

-- "The rights of the individual and the rule of law are as fundamental to peace as arms control. History has shown that democratic nations do not start wars."

-- "We must and will speak in Geneva on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. We are not trying to impose our beliefs on others. We have a right, however, to expect that great states will live up to their international obligations."

#### People-to-People Initiatives: A More Open World

-- Despite our deep and abiding differences, the President believes we can and must prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence. "Enduring peace depends on openness, honest communications, and opportunities for our peoples to get to know one another directly."

-- The President is also determined to "find as yet undiscovered avenues where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind."

-- The U.S. and USSR have had formal cultural and educational exchanges for more than 25 years. We are concluding negotiations on a new General Exchanges Agreement on academic, cultural, and performing artist exchanges. This agreement will also provide

-- The U.S. and USSR cooperated in the past. In both World Wars, Americans and Russians fought on separate fronts against a common enemy. "Near the city of Murmansk, sons of our own nation are buried, heroes who died of wounds sustained on the treacherous North Atlantic and North Sea convoys that carried to Russia the indispensable tools of survival and victory."

-- While a single summit cannot establish a permanent peace, the President hopes that his meeting with Gorbachev "can begin a dialogue for peace." He looks to the future with optimism and goes to Geneva with confidence.

-- In sum, the President goes to Geneva knowing "how deep the hope of peace is ... in the heart of every American and Russian mother."

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for exhibits of America's best talent to travel throughout the Soviet Union accompanied by Russian-speaking American guides.

-- Traditional exchanges such as these are valuable, but more is needed. The President hopes that we can lessen the distrust between us, reduce the levels of secrecy, and bring forth a more "Open World." He is proposing bold new programs to increase day-to-day contacts between our peoples.

-- The President's exchanges initiatives include:

- o Education: greatly expanded educational exchanges of students and teachers at all levels, and a new scholarship program to send some of the best of each country's university students to study in the other;

- o Contacts: an increase in people-to-people contacts through tourism and civic exchanges;

- o Sports: increased sports exchanges ranging from televised athletic competitions to bring American and Soviet young people together in healthy athletic competition to off-the-playing field contact;

- o Scientific and Space Cooperation: new programs for joint space ventures and joint medical research projects;

- o Media Initiatives: proposals ranging from the cessation of jamming of international broadcasts to exchanges of television programming--including appearances by mutually agreed representatives of each country on the other's television; and

- o Information Exchanges: a wider distribution of each country's books, journals, and periodicals in the other, perhaps through national cultural centers or bookstores.

-- These proposals would expand contacts, increase cooperation on some of today's toughest human problems, and encourage people of both countries to travel freely back and forth, visit each other's homes, and work and study together.

-- Such proposals alone will not bridge our differences, but they can help "build genuine constituencies for peace" in both countries.

-- Once we open the doors to this kind of exchange, the Administration will look to the people to take the lead.

Conclusion: "Without Illusions, but With Hope"

-- The President said "We go with an appreciation, born of experience, of the deep differences between us -- between our values, our systems, our beliefs. But we also carry with us the determination not to permit those differences to erupt into confrontation or conflict."

-- "We do not threaten the Soviet people and never will."

-- The President believes that progress can be made on our entire agenda if the Soviets are ready for it: the steady expansion of human rights for all the world's peoples; support for resolving conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America that carry the seeds of a wider war; a broadening of people-to-people exchanges that can diminish the distrust and suspicion that separate our two peoples; and the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear arsenals.

-- The U.S. and USSR cooperated in the past. In both World Wars, Americans and Russians fought on separate fronts against a common enemy. "Near the city of Murmansk, sons of our own nation are buried, heroes who died of wounds sustained on the treacherous North Atlantic and North Sea convoys that carried to Russia the indispensable tools of survival and victory."

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