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#### THE WHITE HOUSE

## Office of the Press Secretary (Geneva, Switzerland)

# INTERVIEW OF DONALD T. REGAN, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF BY LESLEY STAHL ON FACE THE NATION

November 17, 1985

## The Hotel Metropol

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Mr. Regan, there are reports that the President's grumpy today. Is he in a bad mood?

MR. REGAN: No, he's in a very good mood. He's very upbeat. He's looking forward to the meeting on Tuesday. He's ready for it.

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Q Now Mr. Gorbachev told Secretary of State Shultz when he was in Moscow that this administration is completely controlled by the military industrial complex. With a situation like this, why shouldn't that impression be even more hardened in Mr. Gorbachev's mind?

MR. REGAN: Because you have to listen to Ronald Reagan's words in order to detect what Ronald Reagan, who is our leader, is saying. And he is saying he is here for peace. He is no creature of any military industrial complex.

Q What about arms control agreements at this summit? There are now reports that Mr. Gorbachev may come here with a new proposal. Is there any possibility at all -- disregard all the lowerings of expectations that we have been treated to -- any possibility at all that there will be some joint statement on arms control, any kind of guidelines issued?

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#### Q How close?

MR. REGAN: How close? Well, I could not answer that. I haven't heard what the General Secretary's point of view is as yet. We'll hear that on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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Q Well, are you expecting to see that Gorbachev or are you expecting to see the one who charmed Margaret Thatcher? There seem to be two sides.

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- Q What's your strategy?
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Q You said the other day, I believe, that he is coming to this meeting with his forty years of experience in dealing with communists -- pretty much an anti-communist perspective. What exactly did you mean to convey with that?

MR. REGAN: Well, that this is not something new for Ronald Reagan, to discuss communism or United States-Soviet relationships. You've got to remember that this is an ongoing relationship for the last fifty years that we've had with the Soviets. Now from that point of view Ronald Reagan understands how he views the Soviet Union and he knows and we know. They're not going to convince us that their way of life is better or that their philosophy is one we should adopt, nor are we going to convince them that ours is the best. But we have to find a way to live.

Q Okay. He comes here, as you say, with these forty years of distrusting the Soviets. He's going to be realistic. The Soviets have been briefing here. They've taken an equally tough

line. In fact, some of them have been ridiculing President Reagan about the way he has been preparing for the summit and they have been building up this idea about U.S. militarism -- sort of setting a very sour mood going into these talks. Why have both sides, in your view, been so negative on the threshold?

MR. REGAN: I think both sides -- at least our side -- is being realistic about what to expect. This is the thirteenth summit, remember. Our nations have got to live -- learn to live together. From that point of view, you don't -- everything is not sweetness and light. This is a hard world and we want the people of the United States to recognize that this is fact, not fancy.

Q But and yet you say that they may come to some kind of understanding of principles on arms control. I gather that they are going to agree to have future summits. Is that true?

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Mr. Arbatov says he's not as pessimistic. Are things beginning to come together? Are you going to have a successful summit after all?

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