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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Geneva, Switzerland)

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

November 18, 1985

Salle de Bal
Hotel Intercontinental
Geneva, Switzerland

9:11 A.M. (L)

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#1617-11/18

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9:11 A.M. (L)

MR. SPEAKES: This morning -- this afternoon, National Security Adviser Bud McFarlane will be here at 4:00 p.m. Other briefings -- to reiterate for the rest of the week -- Tuesday and Wednesday our regular briefing will be at 11:00 a.m. and Secretary Shultz will be here Tuesday and Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Today, television: Chief of Staff Don Regan will appear on "Good Morning America," National Security Adviser Bud McFarlane on "The Today Show," Secretary Shultz on "CBS Morning News." U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Arthur Hartman will appear on CNN and INN. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Mark Palmer will appear on "MacNeil/Lehrer" and we will have transcripts available of all these interviews as the shows are aired in the United States. In addition, Ambassador Hartman was interviewed on USIA's Worldnet yesterday. That transcript will be available to you embargoed until 2:00 p.m. Geneva time.

This morning at 11:15 a.m., the President will meet with his advisers at the Pometta residence which is adjacent to his residence. In the meeting will be Secretary Shultz, Don Regan, Bud McFarlane, Dennis Thomas, Paul Nitze, Ed Rowny, Fred Ikle, Arthur Hartman, Rozanne Ridgway, Jack Matlock, Mark Palmer and Robert Linhard.

The same group will share a working lunch with the President at 1:15 p.m.

At 2:05 p.m. today, the President will participate in the welcoming ceremony at Le Reposeoir. It will be hosted by the French -- the Swiss President Furgler and Mrs. Furgler. There will be pool coverage on the terrace at 2:05 p.m. The President will inspect the Swiss troops at 2:10 p.m. with coverage of that.

At 2:20 p.m., the President will meet with President Furgler and there will be pool coverage at the beginning of this meeting. The meeting is scheduled to conclude at 2:50 p.m.

The Reagans will arrive back at their residence at 3:00 p.m. No other public activities planned this afternoon.

Q -- no remarks in that ceremony?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

The First Lady's schedule: at 2:25 p.m. while the

President is meeting with President Furgler, Mrs. Reagan will attend a tea hosted by Mrs. Furgler. There will be pool coverage of that meeting.

At 11:30 a.m. today, the First Lady's press secretary Elaine Crispen will be available in the briefing room to provide answers to your questions regarding the First Lady's schedule. Those who met with Elaine yesterday should touch base again to clarify pool assignments and other coverage of Mrs. Reagan's activities.

The President as he approaches tomorrow's first meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev looks forward to the meeting as the opportunity to start a new process of straightforward dialogue seeking solutions with the Soviets in areas where this is possible. The President believes that this can be a watershed meeting in which we hear each other out and begin to understand each other better. If the Soviets share our commitment to a fresh start, this meeting can provide the foundation for real enhancement of dialogue in all four areas of the meeting's agenda: arms control, regional issues, bilateral issues, and human rights.

The results of the meeting will not be judged by tomorrow's headlines, but will be judged in the advancement of better relations in the months and years ahead. This will determine whether more stable peace can be established, and the basis for such peace, we believe, has been created and, for our part, we're ready for a fresh start.

The President enters these meetings in a realistic frame of mind entertaining no illusions about the differences that divide the United States and the Soviet Union, but we find certain grounds for optimism on the eve of the summit.

The President goes into tomorrow's meetings from a position of strength and with a sense of historical perspective. We will be seeking a more realistic dialogue with the Soviet Union; not one based on assumptions of the past which have not worked, but on assumptions that we can work together more closely in the future. What we seek is a stable, constructive, and predictable way of dealing with each other.

The situation this morning regarding the Archbishop's emissary, Terry Waite: we are taking steps to be in touch with Mr. Waite. We look forward to receiving the information that he has obtained on the status of U.S. hostages being held in Lebanon. We hope to make contact with Mr. Waite in diplomatic channels in London today. We are anxious to have direct word on the status of the Americans being held in Lebanon. It has been and remains the highest priority of this administration to touch every base, leave no stone unturned, to seek the safe and prompt return of our hostages. The efforts of the Archbishop's emissary to assist in this effort are appreciated and we look forward to our meetings with him.

Questions? Helen.

Q Has the President decided that he will go for guidelines on the arms control negotiations?

MR. SPEAKES: Has the President decided will he go for guidelines on arms control?

Q I mean, has it been decided by both sides?

MR. SPEAKES: It has not been decided by both sides. The discussions on arms control that will take place in the meetings Tuesday and Wednesday, on that basis, will rest whether there is an announcement of any type or a guidelines -- written guidelines.

Barry?

Q Larry, is there any determination yet what area the President will concentrate on in that 15 minute warmup -- his first session with Mr. Gorbachev tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: That session, Barry, is going to be open-ended. The President will continue with the General Secretary as long as the two of them wish to remain in private conversation. It will take place as long as the two of them wish to remain in private conversation. It will take place in a small room adjacent to the main meeting room before a fireplace where two chairs are there. Only the interpreters will be present.

The meeting does not have a specific agenda. I think it will be purely personal. It will, of course, be the first meeting between the two leaders and an opportunity for each to state their personal views on the outset of the meeting. I think it will be an opportunity for the two to size each other up, to establish personal relationships, which, as Secretary Shultz said, and we have always believed, personal relationships are important in establishing a framework for two countries to deal with each other.

Q Are you saying, then, that it could go thirty minutes if they want? It's not --

MR. SPEAKES: It could. There is no specific time limit. It's sort of been framed in for fifteen minutes. The others will be engaged in sort of an informal stand-up discussion at the time this is taking place, so I think the two leaders will be anxious not to leave their respective staffs cooling their heels out there but they certainly will engage in conversation as long as they think it is necessary.

Q Larry, is there any progress on bilateral issues in the past day?

MR. SPEAKES: Bilateral discussions for the most part, Robin, have taken place in the respective capitals leading up to this and some continue at various locations but there have not been any protracted discussions here over the weekend on issues -- bilateral or human rights or other issues.

Q Do you expect any today or --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any scheduled today. So, Chris?

Q Has the President decided to propose to Gorbachev that they make a joint statement seeking nuclear reductions?

MR. SPEAKES: Has the President decided that they make a joint statement on arms reductions? That is in the realm of speculation at the moment. Once again, that decision will await the meeting between the President and the General Secretary.

It is the U.S. position that we want to achieve deep reductions. We hope the Soviets will agree to reaching deep reductions. How we go about stating that is to be determined in the meetings. We are interested, of course, in substance, not form. We are interested in actions and not words as far as arms control is concerned. So these decisions about how the matter will be presented will be decided in the meetings.

Q Larry, in your list of those senior advisers the President is meeting with, you did not mention Mr. Perle. Can you explain why he is not among those?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think he was scheduled. We haven't left him out, have we? He's not on the list here.

MR. DJEREJIAN: No.

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MR. SPEAKES: No. I don't have any explanation for it. I don't think --

Q Do you have Mr. Ikle?

MR. SPEAKES: Ikle, yes.

Q Ikle is not on the list.

MR. DJEREJIAN: Mr. Ikle is representing the Defense Department.

Q Larry, yesterday the Secretary of State, when asked whether it was possible that the President at this meeting might agree to extend SALT II provisions for another year, replied, "I do not foreclose that, although it is unlikely." It would seem to me that what you and Mr. McFarlane said yesterday seemed to foreclose it. How do you square that?

MR. SPEAKES: No, you obviously went to sleep at the International Press Center yesterday when Mr. McFarlane said he couldn't rule out anything. But as the Secretary of State said, and as I have said repeatedly, today and as long ago as a week ago I can't foreclose it, but at the same time --

Q He didn't want it a year ago.

MR. SPEAKES: At the same time -- 1966 with Lou. At the same time the President anticipates looking at the report and studying it in detail and receiving that.

Q You're right. I was --

MR. SPEAKES: Asleep.

Q Well, I don't know. I listened to you yesterday explain to us how the President was going to wait for the second part of that report, which would come in December -- this being November -- and I got the impression you were trying to tell us that, no, he would not make such an agreement at this time. I apologize for misreading you.

MR. SPEAKES: And so was Mr. McFarlane and so was his Secretary of State.

Q Larry, was the -- has the President cancelled plans to go on American television with an interview with the four anchors tonight?

MR. SPEAKES: Has no plans to do so.

Q Oh, we never have plans.

Q I understand the President already has read both parts of that report. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKES: No, he has not received the second part of it -- only the first part of it. Pinkus has read the second part, but not Reagan. (Laughter.)

Q Has he briefed the President on that part?

MR. SPEAKES: Pinkus? No. No, he doesn't have anything but part one.

Q Well, what is part two then? My understanding was that --

MR. SPEAKES: Part two are the recommendations for what.

the President should do. Part one is the findings.

Q I've been given the impression that the President had seen everything in the report with the exception of --

MR. SPEAKES: The President -- to be absolutely certain, the President does have the summary, which I presume contains part of part two -- at least a summary of part two, but he has not received the details.

Q The summary has not only --

MR. SPEAKES: I haven't seen it to know, but I think maybe that's true. I'm not sure.

Q It's in The Washington Post today.

MR. SPEAKES: I read it.

Q Does the White House have any reaction to the fact that the report itself is in print today?

MR. SPEAKES: It's the unclassified summary, but the letter was unclassified, so, no, no reaction.

Q Has it -- I mean, doesn't it seem as though, after what happened the other day there ought to have been some warnings put out?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Can you say who is meeting Mr. Waite and where that meeting will take place?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I can't be specific. We're seeking contacts in London, but I will not be specific about who it will be -- through our diplomatic resources and will take place -- the contacts -- we presume in London.

Q Larry, how is the President's cold today? How is the President's cold? Is he taking any medication?

MR. SPEAKES: The President never indicated he had a cold.

Q Is he taking any medication for his obvious stuffiness?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think there was stuffiness. There could have been, you know, a cold nose.

Q He's in a bad mood.

MR. SPEAKES: He wasn't in a bad mood either. You know

Q He's not taking any medication?

MR. SPEAKES: You'd think they --

Q I read that on the wire service that he was in a --

MR. SPEAKES: I read it on the wire service and it's wrong.

Q Larry, he's not taking any medication?

Q I was reading in Spanish at the time.

MR. SPEAKES: I see. Lost something in the translation.

Q Larry, does the President have a cold or not?

MR. SPEAKES: No, he doesn't have a cold. If he's got a cold, we always tell you he's got a cold.

Q Is he taking any medication for a cold, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Here's a serious question on the front.

No, no medication.

Q Are all the pre-summit meetings between the Soviet Union and the United States over? Has all the work been done in Moscow and Washington? And if not, how would you describe the meetings that are going on? Are there frantic efforts to reach agreements in the various --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any specific meetings that are going on either here or in other capitals. There have been some and I think generally there have been -- they've finished.

So, let me work the back, Andrea. Nobody in the back. Here we go.

Q But have you explained to the President -- Go ahead.

Q Can you give us a little more detail on what the President is hoping to achieve at the morning meeting today and --

MR. SPEAKES: The outline I gave you is, I think, the President's thoughts today.

Q That's a repetition --

Q Well, I mean, is he going over his game plan for the first session with Gorbachev or --

Q What?

MR. SPEAKES: What will the President be doing in his meeting this morning? Yes, I think there will be a discussion of the initial meeting and the things that will take place in the initial meeting.

Q Will there be discussion of some of the bilateral issues and how close they are to closure on some of these things? Give me a break for the morning news.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I know. Really, I don't know because the meeting this morning will just be simply going around the table and calling on the various individuals who may report. And what they've got to report, I don't know yet.

Q Will he run through his presentation?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry, what do you mean by a watershed meeting? That's pretty big, heavy language. It sounds like you're --

MR. SPEAKES: A watershed meeting is -- as we stated yesterday -- that the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States characteristically have been on a roller coaster type -- going from euphoria to gloom and doom. We want to put them on a stable, even keel. And this meeting, we believe, the time is ripe for a new approach, for a fresh start, for an opportunity for the two superpowers to deal with each other. So, that's the reason it's a watershed meeting.

Pat.

Q Is there any chance that the summit -- the length of the summit could be extended if --

MR. SPEAKES: No plans.

Q -- progress was being made?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, no plans to do so.

Q Larry, is there some question of a new offer on reciprocal visitation of each other's SDI research centers?

MR. SPEAKES: No, not aware of any plans for that.

Owen.

Q In your statement, when you said you're interested in action, not words -- talking about arms control -- are you saying if you can agree to any reduction in arms --

MR. SPEAKES: No, what we're saying is a piece of paper is not important to us. But an agreement that will hold up, that results in true reductions is what we seek.

Q So, you're saying if you can't agree on arms reduction, you don't consider it worthwhile to put out a statement expressing a desire to reduce arms?

MR. SPEAKES: No. We're saying a piece of paper is not essential to what we seek. It would be a meeting of the minds on arms reduction and a way to proceed. And if it resulted in true arms reduction, paper is not important. It's actions that count.

Q Larry, in -- speaking of actions, Secretary Shultz yesterday said that the Soviets "had done some things" about -- on compliance. Do you know what he was talking about?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I can't expand on that.

Q Could you just run over for us your latest understanding of the timetable and agenda for the full eight hours of formal talks?

MR. SPEAKES: Timetable and agenda. Let's see if I can recall it. Basically, the opening session is an overview. The afternoon session is what, Ed?

MR. DJEREJIAN: Arms control.

MR. SPEAKES: Arms control. The Tuesday morning session is bilateral and the Tuesday afternoon session is other issues and a summation.

Q Regional.

Q No, no.

MR. SPEAKES: Regional issues, other issues?

Q Regional and --

Q Tuesday -- Wednesday is regional, isn't it?

Q Yes.

MR. DJEREJIAN: Wednesday morning's regional.

Q Wednesday's regional. Morning.

MR. SPEAKES: Did I give it correctly? I'm giving it from memory?

Q No.

Q No.

MR. SPEAKES: Initial session is overview and --

MR. DJEREJIAN: The afternoon session, arms control.

MR. SPEAKES: Afternoon's arms control. Wednesday morning --

MR. DJEREJIAN: Regional issues.

MR. SPEAKES: Regional issues.

Q And others.

MR. SPEAKES: And others. Afternoon summary.

MR. DJEREJIAN: Afternoon --

Q Bilateral --

MR. SPEAKES: Bilaterals.

MR. DJEREJIAN: And wrapup.

Q Bilateral and other issues.

MR. SPEAKES: Helen.

Q Human rights.

Q Bilateral and other issues.

Q Human rights.

Q Larry, does the United States have any reason to believe that the Soviets will go for these cuts without any give on our part on Star Wars?

Q Question?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon? Does the --

Q Does the U.S. have any reason to believe that the Soviets will back off on their idea of trading off these cuts for a give on our part on Star Wars?

MR. SPEAKES: I think all that remains for discussion. There's specifically a story in the newspaper this morning that indicates that President Reagan may be able -- may be prepared to do some discussion about SDI at future summits. That is to bargain on SDI at future summits. And I think anyone who has heard the President speak knows his position on SDI is firm and knows that he is not looking to bargain SDI now or later.

Our position is to urge the Soviets to open talks promptly on the relationship between offensive weapons and defensive systems. Further, we seek to determine, with the Soviets over time, how we can engender a transition away from offense to defense. Such suggestions about using SDI as a bargaining chip are simply not authoritative.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Time Magazine published overnight -- said that 75 percent of Americans are in favor of abandoning IDS in return for a Soviet reduction in military power.

MR. SPEAKES: That's not --

Q What about public opinion then?

MR. SPEAKES: That's not the President's position. And I think if you --

Q What's the question, Larry?

Q Question?

MR. SPEAKES: Question about a Time Magazine survey saying 75 percent of the American people want to bargain away SDI for deep reductions. That's not the President's position. I think at the same time Newsweek Magazine shows that an increase from the low '40s to the mid-'50s on Americans who support the President's position on SDI. So you've got two polls, two polling methods.

Jim.

Q Yes, Larry, in the overview session Tuesday morning, what's likely to be the topics that are going to come up? How's the U.S. going to approach the overview session?

MR. SPEAKES: I think it's a -- simply a position -- outlining the position of the United States and how we approach the talks, how we approach the relationship, how we approach each of the four areas.

Barry.

Q Larry, even before the summit was set, way back last March or April, I guess, when Major Nicholson was shot, it was said that that would be brought up at the summit. We haven't heard about him in a long time. Will there be some discussion directly by the President with the procedures in Germany and, of course, the killing of that Army officer?

MR. SPEAKES: Barry, I think we would have to wait the outcome of the meetings and the specific discussions to see whether that comes up. I know Secretary Shultz has raised it with the Soviets on past trips, I believe including the last one, which you were on. So I don't know.

Let me work the back a little bit. Anybody in the back hurting? Eleanor.

Q Larry, would you say going into this summit that there is less certainty on both sides about what is likely to be achieved than there has been in past summits -- past meetings between the superpowers?

Q Question.

MR. SPEAKES: Whether there's less certainty approaching this summit and past meetings with -- between the superpowers over what will be the outcome. I really hesitate, Eleanor, to speak, not having been present for any of those previous meetings or involved in them as to whether there's less certainty. We have approached the meeting, as we have said, not seeking pieces of paper or counting success or failure on the number of pieces of paper but on the simple outcome of the two people talking to each other.

Sam.

Q Does the President now know that the senior official

who said that he thought the leak of the letter was designed to wreck the summit, or words to that effect, was not a figment of the press's imagination?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't really know whether he knows who said that or what. I just don't know.

Q Well, do you think you or someone else will inform him that it was a senior official aboard his own airplane coming over?

MR. SPEAKES: I think it's contained in the news summary that he's receiving this morning.

Andrea.

Q Do you have anything on a new Soviet offer on ASATs?

MR. SPEAKES: No, nothing on a new Soviet offer on ASATs.

Chris.

Q Yes, I want to follow up on Helen's question. You've made it clear that there's no change in the President's position on SDI, but the other part of her question was do we have any sense of give on the Soviet side that they would be willing, as they have said in the past they would not be, to agree to offensive arms cuts without give on SDI --

MR. SPEAKES: I think the latest thing that we have specifically on that is the statements of the General Secretary in the Time Magazine interview, which he indicated some views on research regarding that. That's the extent of it.

Lesley.

Q Larry, terrorism. What is likely to be discussed on terrorism? And is there any chance there would be some kind of joint statement or --

MR. SPEAKES: Don't know of any specific plans for a statement on terrorism. I think the United States and the Soviet Union share the deep feelings and we have both deplored terrorism. I think the United States, for its part, will indicate its ongoing efforts and seek Soviet cooperation in it.

Q But why -- Can you explain to us or tell us why there wasn't a move or was there a move and they rejected it to have some kind of an agreement or a --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not aware of any move to have an agreement on it. I think --

Q Why not?

MR. SPEAKES: Well --

Q It seems like a natural since we've both had hostages in the Middle East.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I don't have any specific reasons. So --

Helen?

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: I'll come back to it.

Q Larry, in terms of the Soviet violations -- and the President has read that part of the report -- you're not saying that the President will not bring up Soviet violations of ABM and SALT at his meeting with Gorbachev, are you?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I'm not saying that. We have historically done so.

Jim?

Q Is the United States going to propose a joint approach to put an end to the Iran-Iraq War?

Q Question?

MR. SPEAKES: Joint approach to put an end to the Iran-Iraq War? Jim, I don't know of any specifics on that. Ed?

MR. DJEREJIAN: It's an issue that will probably come up in a regional context.

MR. SPEAKES: He said it could come up in the regional, but whether there will be joint proposal, I'm not aware of any move on our part.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Jack?

Q Yes, did the News Summary name the senior official?

MR. SPEAKES: No, it just -- the --

Q Does the President know who it was now?

MR. SPEAKES: Not unless the newspapers did.

Q But does the President know who it was now?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether he does or not.

Q Larry, have you had any talks with Soviet officials since you've been here about what television appearances the two leaders would or would not make?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I have not. I had a meeting with Zamyatin yesterday, but we discussed sort of our respective briefing schedules and our plans for reporting out at the meetings. But no specifics about television appearances by either leader.

Q Was it your understanding -- had you heard that Gorbachev was considering a television appearance during the summit?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we heard rumors of it. But as to whether that's true or not, I didn't raise it with him. That's something if they want to tell me about they may, but --

Q It was not discussed by you at all?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: David?

Q -- did the President meet with Mrs. Scharansky yesterday?

MR. SPEAKES: Did he meet with who?

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Q Mrs. Scharansky?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q What are your plans for reading out the meetings? Is there going to be any coordinated effort or are you going to --

MR. SPEAKES: No, no coordinated effort. Each side will report on the meetings as they see fit. I don't think there will be great detail coming out of the meetings. I think it will be an overview of what was discussed, but I don't think we're going to give you a conversational report or a transcript of the meetings.

Q Larry, is there any more definite plans for Thursday in what they might or might not do?

MR. SPEAKES: No, no plans for Thursday. That depends on discussions in the meeting.

Mike?

Q Has there been an agreement not to get into a briefing war each day on what happens here?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, a briefing war -- we seek peace, not war -- (laughter) -- even in the briefing room. But --

Q I mean, are there guidelines for what you're going to say --

MR. SPEAKES: No, we haven't. They indicated -- Zamyatin indicated to me that they would be reporting very generally out of their meetings, and I think that's Secretary Shultz's deep-seated feeling and long-standing custom to report generally out of the meetings. So --

Q Larry, can we really expect any negotiations in the next three days in the sense of give-and-take across the table or is this just a case of people putting their positions down and going away and thinking about them and maybe meeting again?

MR. SPEAKES: No, from what I understand of the General Secretary's style and what I know of the President's style, there certainly will be an opportunity for give-and-take and an understanding of views. Whether you want to characterize that as negotiations depends. But I think there will certainly be a give-and-take of views on the rapid-fire basis in the meetings.

Jim?

Q Larry, on the -- when the President mentioned a broader cultural exchange in his Thursday night speech, has a specific proposal been prepared that will be or has been offered to the Soviets, or will it just be raised in a general fashion?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, there is the specific proposal that we have discussed with the Soviets, and I think the discussions that have taken place at the lower levels will be raised in the meetings, and if the two leaders ratify it, would be announced.

Q Discussed through the two capitals, or here in Geneva?

Q On what?

MR. SPEAKES: The two leaders on a broader cultural exchange, or people-to-people.

Q Was it discussed in the two capitals, or here in Geneva?

MR. SPEAKES: It was discussed in the two capitals.

Q I wanted to follow up, Larry, on a question that was asked earlier. We were given the impression by senior officials last week that there would be a lot of activity over the weekend, trying to iron out some various kinds of agreements that might be reached. Without getting specific --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- on particulars, you're giving me the impression, at any rate, that these last-minute attempts were not successful. Is that what you're trying to say?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't -- maybe that was a misstatement that was provided by our people last week, but I do not know of any specific meetings that are taking place. Everything that has taken place, has taken place in the various capitals, and there are not any --

Q I'm not specifying where it was supposed to happen, I'm simply saying over the weekend --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, well I -- perhaps over the weekend some meetings continued in Washington, but there are no meetings that have taken place here.

Q There were no meetings scheduled to iron out these nettlesome details?

MR. SPEAKES: What nettlesome details?

Q The nettlesome details that a senior official referred to?

MR. SPEAKES: No. The --

Q Maybe that was a figment of my imagination.

Q You were asleep -- asleep. You went to sleep.
(Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Okay, anything else? Let me go here to Bill.

Q Can I ask you a mechanical problem?

MR. SPEAKES: You may.

Q There's going to be 8 hours of talks, and interpreting effectively reduces those to 4. I've heard about 13 topics and subtopics they're going to talk about. That divides out to 18 minutes apiece. How -- they're going to have to talk at top speed to be any give-and-take at all. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: We'll record it rapidly and play it back like Donald Duck. (Laughter.)

Is it simultaneous translation? Translation --

Q Mickey Mouse.

MR. DJEREJIAN: On our side, the translation will be simultaneous.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

MR. DJEREJIAN: On the Soviet side, it'll probably be sequential.

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MR. SPEAKES: Okay, the -- your calculation is off and would have to be revised, because for our part, our translation will be simultaneous, so that gives -- that multiplies the U.S. side. However, on the Soviet side, it will follow, so recalculating, let's see -- that'll probably give 19 1/2 minutes to it.

So, yes, ma'am, we ought to go here. Anything else? Somebody was hurting back here. Where are they? Helen? Oh, there's Barry.

Q Yes. You mentioned a whole list of U.S. media on which U.S. officials would appear. Are there European television stations who are doing interviews --

MR. SPEAKES: European television stations doing interviews with --

Q -- with U.S. officials -- Regan, Shultz, McFarlane, Nitze, Palmer are all people that are appearing back home --

MR. SPEAKES: There may have been a few, but not -- I don't know of Regan, Shultz or McFarlane.

Q Have there been no requests for these people or --

MR. SPEAKES: There have been some requests, but their time is limited and we have to live with the guys in the back when we go home.

Q Larry, could you clarify, will it be Gorbachev's words which will be simultaneously translated by our translators?

MR. SPEAKES: That's correct.

Q You said earlier that the United States and the Soviet Union shared an abhorrence of terrorism, or again, words to that effect. Were you talking just about the situation in the Middle East and Lebanon? Because in times past, officials of this government have accused the Soviet Union of fomenting terrorism around the world. You weren't speaking in a broad sense, were you?

MR. SPEAKES: No, but I do think the Soviets have publicly deplored terrorism wherever it's occurred.

Q And you believe them?

MR. SPEAKES: I believe they deplored it, yes.

Q Don't they sponsor it?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, you've said they sponsor it.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not going to play those games here on the eve of the summit -- sorry.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Oh, go on.

Q Do you have an explanation why the Soviets are insisting on --

MR. SPEAKES: Why the Soviets are doing what?

Q Why they want possession -- translation of President Reagan.

MR. SPEAKES: No, no. We do our -- we do the translating of what they say and that will be simultaneous. Now, whether the

Soviets are -- why they're doing it the other way, I don't know.

Q Are you disappointed? Are you disappointed that there not going to do simultaneous?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm extremely pleased. (Laughter.)

Q Two questions --

MR. SPEAKES: I really -- I haven't lost any sleep over it. I haven't been concerned about it. Being able to -- being fluent in Russian, myself, I haven't worried about it. (Laughter.)

Yes, sir.

Q You're saying there are no meetings going on now. First, didn't -- McFarlane said yesterday that an agreement on bilateral exchanges was to be reached within a day or so, and secondly, how exactly will Mr. Reagan meet Mr. Gorbachev tomorrow morning? What will be the first handshake, where will it occur? Outside, inside?

MR. SPEAKES: He will meet him on the steps of the meeting -- of the home there.

Q And he's going to say you're much prettier than I thought. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. What else? Anything else? I've got to go.

Mike?

Q Yes. I just want to find out further about the translations. Does this mean, with the simultaneous translation, that the President has to wear some sort of a headset or ear plug?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q And where does the translator sit? Does he just sit -- how does he do this?

Q What does he do with his hands?

MR. SPEAKES: We work with an implant, Mike.
(Laughter.)

Q No, how does he do this, do you know?

MR. SPEAKES: The translator sits -- probably will sit behind the President -- or no. I'll tell you where they'll sit. There's a round table, and there's a door here and some windows here and a fireplace there. And the guy sits -- two guys that sit over by the door, one Soviet, one U.S. They talk into a little do-dad. (Laughter.) And it goes into the earphone.

Q That's a sound bite.

Q Have you got all this down.

MR. SPEAKES: Helen, have you had enough? I've got to go.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

9:45 A.M. (L)