

Correspondence

**Addressed to President Reagan
From General Secretary Andropov**

August 27, 1983



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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Dear Mr. President,

I found it necessary to draw your attention again to a question the importance of which would seem to be beyond doubt. I have in mind the problem of limiting nuclear weapons in Europe, on which the next round of Soviet-American talks will begin in about a week in Geneva. A decisive breakthrough at those negotiations could be of fundamental importance for the developments in Europe and throughout the world, and consequently -- not least -- between the Soviet Union and the United States as well.

The Soviet Union has just taken another major step which, if properly appreciated by the United States, will in many respects facilitate reaching agreement in Geneva. We have declared our willingness to eliminate in the European part of the USSR those of our medium range missiles which would be subject to reductions. Among them there would be a considerable part of the SS-20 missiles as well, namely, that part of those missiles which would be in excess of the aggregate number of medium range missiles of Britain and France. It goes without saying that that can be done only if mutually acceptable agreement is reached as a whole on the problem of limiting medium range nuclear systems in Europe, including renunciation of the deployment of new American missiles there.

The question regarding the redeployment of the SS-20 missiles to be reduced would thereby be removed, too. And the American representatives themselves repeatedly emphasized the great importance for the progress of the negotiations in Geneva of what would happen to the Soviet missiles to be reduced in Europe.

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Having taken this serious step for the sake of reaching agreement, we expect that the reciprocal step of the U. S. side will be of a kind that would make a mutually acceptable agreement possible.

As you understand, Mr. President, a great deal depends on what the forthcoming round of the negotiations will result in, we believe that an agreement is possible and achievable so far. The Soviet delegation in Geneva will have instructions to apply additional efforts to work out an agreement based on the principle of equality and equal security. For the success to be achieved, however, it is necessary for the U. S. delegation also to have appropriate instructions to work in the same direction.

The Soviet leadership is deeply convinced that the situation powerfully dictates the need for a broad, considered approach and for taking bold political decisions looking to the future. For its part, the Soviet leadership acts precisely in this manner. I would like to hope that your government and you personally will approach the resolution of the task we face with the sense of great responsibility for the destinies of peace and international security.

Sincerely,

Y. Andropov

August 27, 1983