

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Mikhail Gorbachev
Nicholas Burns, NSC Staff (notetaker)
Dmitri Zarechnak (Interpreter)

DATE, TIME: January 1, 1991, 8:00-8:13 A.M.

AND PLACE: Camp David

The President: Hello, Mikhail. I am just calling to wish you, Raisa and your family a happy New Year. (U)

President Gorbachev: Thank you for this New Years greeting. It is good to hear from you. On behalf of Raisa and my family, our best to you and Barbara. (U)

The President: We are at Camp David, and we have had a quiet and peaceful Christmas and New Years. I hope everything is going well. I appreciate the message Ambassador Bessmertnykh brought the other day. I won't comment on the open line about the substance. But I want to assure you of our full cooperation and of our keen interest in our good relationship getting better. (✓)

President Gorbachev: George, I wanted despite all the things that have happened--you know we have had some hot days here recently--to write that letter to you. I am sure we will continue our good relations based on what Ambassador Bessmertnykh has told me of your conversation. (✓)

The President: That is true. We will want to conclude work on START and on the little discrepancies on CFE. And of course we will want to continue our total cooperation and the exchange of information on the Gulf. (✓)

President Gorbachev: I fully agree with you. I want to say on this first day of the New Year that this really will be the case, although we have a great deal of work to do yet at home. (✓)

The President: We are thinking about you. I wish we had a secure line to talk about some of these problems. We are so committed to your reforms. Any place we can help, we'll do that. Please let us know. We hope you can overcome these difficulties and continue your reforms. You still have the respect and support of the American people. (✓)

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President Gorbachev: I will keep you informed of our efforts, since there is a great deal that needs to be done here which is new for our country and its surroundings. I want to give you information on what we are doing. (Ø)

The President: Okay. Please stay in touch. Happy New Year to you. I enjoyed this conversation. (U)

President Gorbachev: Okay. Let us then raise our glasses, for me in the evening, and for you in the morning, for the New Year. (U)

The President: All right. Good bye. (U)

President Gorbachev: Thank you. I wish you the same. Good bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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