

October 6, 1991, Sunday

Yesterday M.S. met with Camdessus. They formalized the “USSR’s” entry into the IMF (all the time now in official tests and especially in public addresses I feel like avoiding the name of the country. Damn it! There was probably no other case in history when the state remained, but was stripped of its name. Anyway...) Both Camdessus and M.S. called it a “historic event.” In terms of symbolism, this was probably the case. They exchanged letters, and at their request I “witnessed” that the exchange took place...

Camdessus was very polite, talkative, and uncharacteristically for a businessman—full of enthusiasm and optimism for us. He said that on behalf of the G-7, his people have been studying “constantly monitoring the course of events” since last fall, and he is sure that if we “get” (i.e. create) with the help of the IMF and the G-7) the technology and incentives, the USSR would become an economic superpower not just someday, but within a few years. I wrote this in the press report of the meeting... but who publishes anymore this “genre” I created?! My reports about M.S.’ meetings do not appear on the TV or in the newspapers.

Prior to this, for two days Weber, Yermonsky and I prepared the text for M.S.’ televised response to Bush’s initiative... Also working on this was the group M.S. created, headed by Silaev (Shaposhnikov, Petrovsky, Ryzhkov, Bakatin, Yakovlev, generals and Karpov from the MFA). Yesterday we put it together: my political text (assessments) and their “counter-offers.” Quite strong. But they decided against liquidating our nuclear bombers—a part of the strategic nuclear arms triad (Shaposhnikov, who is an aviator, objected to it). Though Shaposhnikov + Ryzhkov “informed” us that our TU-160 are flying coffins (like the TB-3 at the beginning of the war! I remember them). If, God willing, they manage to get to the coast of the United States or Canada, it would be only to drop their bombs. Getting back—that’s another question! They constitute only 3 percent of our strategic nuclear forces... but each bomber costs 50 million and carries only 8 missiles, while the American B-2 carries 20 missiles, not to mention the electronics, speed, etc.!

Nevertheless (even though they almost agreed to it), this point was removed. If they had accepted it, it would liquidate one leg of the triad of strategic nuclear weapons.

M.S. talked with Yeltsin, who agreed to the statement in general. M.S. promised to send Obukhov + a general to Yeltsin in Kislovodsk, to “acquaint him with all the details”... But it seems he forgot about this later. He did not find it necessary to inform the other heads of “our” states: “They will go to hell... some presidents they are!”

He spoke with Bush. Pankin gave our response in writing to Bartholomew (U.S. Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs), who arrived in Moscow. That is why we rushed M.S. to appear on TV yesterday, but it does not look like we acted at the Americans’ bidding.

[Source: Anatoly S. Chernyaev Diary (manuscript donated to the National Security Archive)
Translated by Anna Melyakova]