

February 25, 1991, Monday

For the whole day on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Gorbachev (and we with him) was telephoning Bush, Major, Andreotti, Mubarak, Assad, Mitterrand, Kohl, Kaifu, Rafsanjani... Trying to convince them that Hussein will leave Kuwait, that he has no other options.

And nobody, including the people he is on close terms with, told him directly: "Don't fuss, Mikhail! Everything was decided two weeks ago. Nobody wants Hussein to withdraw, or more precisely, Bush doesn't want him to withdraw, and we can't stand in the way. He has to stay so we can arrange a modern-day 'Stalingrad' for him." They played games with him. Sometimes he felt it, but kept hoping that the New Thinking criteria would kick in, that trust means something. But no such luck! The logic of traditional politics was at work: where there is power, wealth, and interests, there is "right." And it was easy to find a moral cover for this, especially against Hussein.

Records of his telephone conversations are the swan song of new policy aimed at "a new world order." As could be expected, he turned out to be a dreamer-idealist. He believed that humanity will become the core of world politics. And we, the people around him, also believed it, even if we doubted it at times.

In a word, Gorbachev passed the "test by Hussein." The West did not pass it. Allah and the Christian God will note it for us. But that's about it.

We are doomed to be friends with America, no matter what it does. Otherwise we'd again face isolation and everything will go haywire. The remains of *perestroika* would also be lost. Though today, when I advised Gorbachev not to respond to Hussein's latest message, he said: "You are right. What is it now! It's a new era. Even in our country it is already post-*perestroika*. All revolutions end in failure, even if they change the country, and some change the whole world."