

Excerpts from Conversation between Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush
June 1, 1990
Camp David

GORBACHEV: Mr. President, I think already today we can state the fact that our meeting became an important event. [...] Many people gave very high marks to the work that we have accomplished. I agree with you, there still remain some disagreements between us, but yesterday already allows us to say that we are not just making statements but making practical steps, practical policy. This is already not just philosophy, but concrete documents, signed agreements.

The atmosphere that has developed between us is no less important. If it did not exist, then it would be very difficult to achieve practical results. Mr. President, I want to assure you that we are ready to do further constructive work. [...]

BUSH: As a whole, the work we have done is a big plus for both of us. Of course, some people in our country will throw little stones at us. In concrete terms—Congress will criticize the trade agreement. But I think we will be able to deal with it. [...]

Let us decide what we should say at the press conference. [...] I am sure there will be a question about the trade agreement. They will definitely ask me how did it happen that two weeks ago I said that the deterioration of the situation in Lithuania was causing tensions in U.S.-Soviet relations, but then we signed a trade agreement at the summit. To this, I will reply that the trade agreement is in the interest of both sides.

Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive.

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