

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 7, 1986

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN MEETING WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

The Cabinet Room

3:42 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I have a few remarks here. I welcome this opportunity to talk with you about a most important subject of my upcoming meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev: human rights. And I know your interest in that. And with me, as you know, is Yuri Orlov and Mrs. Orlov. Yuri is a founding member of the Independent Soviet Helsinki Monitoring Group, a man who has done more to inform the world of current Soviet human rights violations than any man on Earth. As I said yesterday, a hero for our time.

The West owes him a profound debt, both for his courage and fortitude under unspeakable conditions, and for reminding us how precious are the freedoms that we sometimes take for granted.

As you all know, there has been much speculation that our upcoming meeting in Reykjavik will focus on arms control. But true peace requires respect for human rights and freedom as well as arms control.

We go to Iceland in pursuit of peace. But it's important that the world and our adversaries understand that we Americans -- what we mean when we speak of peace. Peace is not simply an absence of war, it's the presence of justice -- and human rights, human freedom are its indispensable elements. These fundamental values and beliefs are matters on which we Americans cannot and will not compromise. So our agenda for the Reykjavik meeting will deal not only with arms reductions, but Soviet human rights violations, military intervention by the Soviets and their proxies in regional conflicts and broadening contacts between our two peoples.

This meeting is not to sign agreements, but to prepare the way for a productive summit. A real improvement in the Soviet Union's human rights record is essential for such a summit. We will not sacrifice fundamental principles or vital U.S. interests to get a summit. I'll make it amply clear to Mr. Gorbachev that unless there is real Soviet movement on human rights, we will not have the kind of political atmosphere necessary to make lasting progress on other issues.

And there is much room for improvement. The religious persecution, long divided families, suppression of emigration and harassment of ethnic and cultural activists. We are realistic about the Soviet Union and have no illusions about the difficulty of making progress on these key issues. But I see no alternative to our twin policy of strength and dialogue.

And again, thank you all for being here.

Q Mr. President, did Mr. Orlov tell you anything of significance in your meeting just now?

THE PRESIDENT: We have just had a few moments -- few minutes together before coming in here and we have said the things I think you would expect us to say.

Q Did he tell you what he would like you to tell

MORE

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Gorbachev? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: No. He spoke of wanting to carry on the work that he was carrying on there -- to continue to strive for freedom and his goals are very much those of the people around this table already.

Q Mr. President --

END

3:47 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 6, 1986

MEETING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS

DATE: October 7, 1986

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

FROM: MARI MASENG, OPL
RODNEY McDANIEL, NSC

I. PURPOSE

To advise U.S. human and religious rights leaders on your goals for the Iceland meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

II. BACKGROUND

Our goal for the meeting between you and Mr. Gorbachev in Iceland, just as it was last November, is to promote a broad, four-part agenda: arms control, regional conflicts, bilateral issues and human rights. The Soviets, on the other hand, wish to turn these meetings exclusively into arms control forums. We have invited representatives of groups which have worked for human rights and religious freedom in the U.S.S.R. to provide you an opportunity to clarify your goals at the Iceland meeting on human rights issues. The meeting will also signal the American public and the Soviet leadership that we are committed to raising the human rights issue, as part of our broad agenda, in Iceland.

III. PARTICIPANTS : Tab A

IV. PRESS PLAN: Wire service photographers only

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You enter Cabinet Room, take your place at the table, make opening remarks and then open to Q&A. After the meeting, you will shake hands and pose for photographs with guests as they depart.

Attachment: Tab A -- Participants

Talking points from NSC

Coordination: NSC (J. Mandel)

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10/7 12:00 noon

PARTICIPANTS

U.S. Government

- ✓ POTUS
- ✓ Secretary George Shultz, Department of State
- ✓ Patrick Buchanan, Director of Communications
- ✓ Richard Schifter, Asst. Secty. of State for Human Rights
- ✓ Peter Rodman, Deputy Assistant to the President, NSC
- ✓ Jack Matlock, Senior Director for Europe, NSC
- ✓ Mari Maseng, Director, Office of Public Liaison
- ✓ Linas Kojelis, Special Assistant for Public Liaison
- ✓ Carl Anderson, Special Assistant for Public Liaison
- ✓ Max Green, Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison
- ✓ Judyt Mandel, Deputy Director, Intl. Communication, NSC
- John Purnell, Office of Soviet Affairs, Department of State
- ~~Galina Tunik, Interpreter, Department of State~~

Human and Religious Rights Representatives

- ✓ Yuri Orlov
- ✓ Irina Valitova, wife of Yuri Orlov
- ✓ Morris Abram, President, National Conference on Soviet Jewry
- ✓ Zinta Arums, Joint Baltic American National Committee
- ✓ Bishop Antanas Baltakis, Bishop of Lithuanian Catholics in America
- ✓ ~~Dr. James M. Boice, Tenth Presbyterian Church~~
- ✓ Morris Bubstein, Chairman, Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov, Sharansky
- Holly Burkhalter, Helsinki Watch
- ✓ Martin Canavan, Ukrainian Catholic Fraternal Order
- ✓ Dr. Robert P. Dugan, Jr., Director, Office of Public Affairs, National Association of Evangelicals
- ✓ Jerry Goodman, Executive Director, National Conference on Soviet Jewry
- ✓ Dr. Ernest Gordon, Director, CREED
- ✓ Archbishop James Hickey, Washington, D.C.
- ✓ Kent R. Hill, Institute for Religion and Democracy
- ✓ Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Director of Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations
- ✓ Eugene Iwanciw, Washington Representative, Ukrainian National Association
- ✓ Ojars Kalnins, Executive Director, American Latvian Assn.
- ✓ Dr. D. James Kennedy, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church
- Edward Kline, Helsinki Watch
- ✓ Dr. Ernest Lefever, Ethics in Public Policy Institute
- ✓ ~~Elder Neil Maxwell, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints~~
- ✓ Paul Meek, International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in the Soviet Union
- ✓ Casimir Pugevicius, Director, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Services
- ✓ Patricia Rengel, Amnesty International

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- ✓ ~~Dr. Adrian Rogers, President, Southern Baptist Convention~~
- ✓ William De Jarnette Rutherford, Bishop of Anglican American Church
- ✓ Leonard Sussman, Freedom House
- ✓ Vytas Volertas, President-elect, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.
- ✓ Myron Wasylyk, Director, Ukrainian National Information Service
- ✓ Yuri Yarim-Agayev, Center for Democracy