

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

POINT PAPER: HUMAN RIGHTS

OVERVIEW: HUMAN RIGHTS AND US AGENDA

- The people of the United States deeply believe in the cause of human rights everywhere in the world. Governments which respect human rights internally are more trustworthy externally.
- Human rights performance tends to set limits on what is politically possible in other areas, including trade and arms control. (All 100 Senators signed pre-summit letters to you and Gorbachev on human rights.)
- Imprudent for Soviets to expect we could move rapidly ahead in other areas if not supported by progress on human rights.

DEVELOPMENTS SINCE REYKJAVIK AND GENEVA

- There has been limited progress on resolving individual cases and releasing some prisoners of conscience, emigration rates are up from last few years and -- at least for a while -- there was not only increased openness in official media, but a certain tolerance of unofficial demonstrations and publications. But, over the past 60 days, there seems to have been a retreat from this tolerance.
- US-Soviet dialogue on human rights more frequent, but results have fallen short of our expectations.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

- Much remains to be done, both to help individuals and to change Soviet laws and practices:
 - o A number of cases we have raised with Soviets at highest level have not been resolved (you can hand over short list).
 - o Want to urge Gorbachev to resolve all remaining cases of divided families and American citizens, as well as refuseniks on lists we gave Soviets in September.
 - o Urge him to increase religious freedom, end psychiatric abuse, and give human rights gains some degree of permanence by reforming Soviet laws and practices.

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NLS MD3-7472#3
BY CIS, NARA, DATE 12/9/05