

Excerpt from Anatoly Chernyaev's Diary

November 24, 1985

The spirit of Geneva, the sign of Geneva. Gorbachev's interview is the source of a new understanding of the political world and of ourselves. Will we be able to make use of it?

[Something] cardinal has occurred: the arms race is going on, nothing has changed in the military confrontation, but a turning point is noticeable in international relations. [We] came close to the recognition that nobody will start a war, to the understanding that one should not continue provoking it either in the name of communism or capitalism.

Gorbachev has revived the hopes which emerged after the XX Congress.

At the conference of deputies B[oris] N[ikolaevich] [Ponomarev] told us about his meeting with Gorbachev at the airport. He shared a detailed account of how things went in Geneva. At first, he saw only the blank, uncomprehending [*neponimayushie*] eyes of the President, who mumbled certain banalities from his paper. Only by the end of the second meeting did they manage to engage in a human conversation. And in the end, Reagan did crack open after all, and even agreed to sign a joint statement. Gorbachev also recounted how [White House Chief of Staff Donald] Regan came to our [delegation] and shared his delight with Gorbachev's actions, and asked [us] to "keep going in this way, to put pressure on the President, cajole him, melt him down ... for his own benefit."

[Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive.]