

Politburo July 9, 1987 [Excerpt]

About negotiations with Americans on middle-range missiles.

Gorbachev: We are moving toward two global zeros on INF and operative-tactical missiles. I.e. we are removing the question of 100 INF missiles in the East. This will make a strong impression in China, Japan, and in their entire Asia. ... We will get a huge political victory.

As far as operative and tactical missiles are concerned, by removing them, we are delivering blow at the seventy-two "Pershing-IBs" (i.e. at the American intention to modernize the Pershings that were already stationed in Europe) We will put the Americans in a difficult situation by our initiative. And we will sell it at high price. Let them choose how and where they can make a reciprocal step.

About the third zero—the tactical nuclear weapons. Today we have a balance with the USA both in the delivery vehicles and in the number of warheads.

If one takes kinds of systems, however, but in artillery the picture is more or less the same, but in missiles, we have 1,500, and they have 150. But then they have 1,200 planes more than we do.

Since we are prepared to clear Europe from nuclear weapons, we will cut them, but on an equal basis, taking the dual-purpose weapons into account. Here we need a general conception.

[Source: Archive of the Gorbachev Foundation, Moscow
Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive]