

## CC CPSU Politburo Session, June 6, 1988

On Reagan's visit to Moscow

Gorbachev: Our prognosis was completely right. Reagan's visit has once again shown that the only correct policy is a principled and constructive one, and based on realism. Only this kind of policy brings results. The president has proven himself to be a realist. He was able to see the processes that are taking place on our political front.

While he was still in Washington, he said that one must study the culture of a people. But at that time he was still looking at us through the artificially strung-up human rights conception. Here, he was able to get in touch with the people.

During the days of his visit, the Americans could see our life, the lives of regular Soviet people, on their TV screens 24/7. The very fact that the Soviet Union was "present" on American television in this scope is already a modern phenomenon. In addition to that, the Russian people were very friendly to the American President in Moscow streets and wherever he appeared. The ordinary American has seen the ordinary Russian.

The discussion of strategic and conventional weapons, and the entire issue of disarmament, had an advantage against this background. The change in the tone of Western propaganda was characteristic. Nobody accused us of frustrating or suppressing the problem of conventional weapons anymore. There is a new motif now: "What's the rush?" Against the background of openness, the operation for the president to meet our dissidents, which was probably organized by the American embassy on purpose, was not only a blank shot, but to some extent turned against those who thought it up.

Everything that happened in Moscow should be very carefully considered. And our scholars should thoroughly work through everything related to it. Overall, a new turn in Soviet-American relations has taken place.

Despite all his prejudices, the president was able to look at things realistically, and he spoke honestly of his impressions. He was not embarrassed to correct his previous objectionable conclusions.

Therefore, the human factor, which we regard so highly in foreign policy for a good reason, has played its essential role.

[Source: The Archive of the Gorbachev Foundation, Notes of Anatoly Chernyaev. Translated by Anna Melyakova]