

Mikhail Sergeevich!

For the remaining part of this year you, as we know, have quite an intense schedule of meetings with leaders of a number of non-socialist countries: with the Chancellor of Austria, Prime Minister of Spain, President of Brazil, Chancellor of FRG, Prime Minister of India. A meeting with Mitterand, whose request it would be expedient to satisfy, is also tentatively suggested.

Therefore, our active [policy], especially in the European direction (taking into account your subsequent return visits to these countries in the next year) will find its persuasive implementation.

However, you probably should not let the American affairs drop out of your vision either: the electoral campaign in the USA, which will culminate on November 8 with the election of a new President, is entering its decisive stage. In this connection, it seems to be extremely important to seek mutual understanding with the new President early, before his approach to the Soviet Union is fully formulated.

From here, the issue arises about an extraordinary step: about a possible meeting with him before his official inauguration as President on January 21 of the next year. Such a meeting could be organized in a natural fashion if you were going to deliver an address in New York at the session of the UN General Assembly in the beginning of December (which in itself would be a step of a great political resonance, including in its impact on America on the eve of the start of the new administration).

At that time you could also have a "farewell meeting" with Reagan, which would be useful from the point of view of influencing American public opinion; we should not discount the influence on this still popular president on the population even after his departure from the White House.

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Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive.]