

CONFIDENTIAL

COLD WAR

BRIEFING BOOK

INTRODUCTION

The National Security Archive is proud to have had the opportunity to make a substantial contribution to the *Cold War Series*. At the outset of this important project, Jeremy Isaacs and the people at CNN approached us in search of the crucial primary source documents that would help them piece the Cold War puzzle together. I knew that this story had never been told in its entirety and was excited to be a part of making this happen. So for each episode, we prepared a "briefing book" of the most important documents and sources, from both East and West. Now, we have put together this Cold War Briefing Book for you, the viewer, to see some of the most important or simply most tantalizing documents underlying this landmark series.

We start with documents that mark the beginning of the Cold War: Winston Churchill's famous 1946 speech made in the tiny town of Fulton, Missouri, in which he declared that an "Iron Curtain" now divided communist Soviet Union from its war-time allies, the United States and Great Britain; and George Kennan's "Long Telegram" from Moscow back to the State Department, probably the most famous diplomatic communication ever sent.

Later documents demonstrate the escalation of the Cold War conflict: Soviet leader Josef Stalin's letter to Korean president Kim IL Sung describing Mao Zedong's decision to enter China into the Korean War; John F Kennedy's confrontational meeting with Nikita Khrushchev at the Vienna summit, June 1961, that led soon after to the building of the Berlin Wall further dividing East and West. At the end we conclude with the Russian transcript (the US version is still classified) of the Bush/Gorbachev summit in Malta, signifying the end of the Cold War.

The Archive would like to thank our colleagues and partners at the Cold War International History Project (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars) and its director Christian Ostermann for their cutting edge efforts to open East Bloc files, thus providing many of the documents found in this extraordinary compilation. We also want to thank three premier Cold War historians whose wise advice and counsel has so enriched the series and our own documentary efforts: Dr. John Lewis Gaddis, Dr. Lawrence Freedman, and Dr. Vladislav Zubok. Thanks also to Catherine Nielsen who did the hands-on work to put this book together.

We thank you, the reader, for your interest in the events that have shaped the lives of all of us. The continued efforts of the National Security Archive are made worthwhile by the involvement of concerned citizens like you. We hope this Briefing Book will give you new insights into the Cold War and a new understanding of the universal human experience.

Thomas Blanton
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The National Security Archive is a non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1985 by a group of journalists and scholars who sought a centralized home for formerly secret US government documentation obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Over the past decade, the Archive has become the world's largest non-governmental library of declassified documents and the most prolific and successful non-profit user of the Freedom of Information Act. A project of the Fund for Peace, the Archive is supported by foundation grants, individual donations, and publication royalties, and receives no government funds.