

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF ANDREI GROMYKO
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

THE NORTH LAWN

7:03 P.M. EDT

FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO: Our discussion with the U.S. President Ford has just ended. During this discussion, we touched upon several problems relating, first and foremost, to the U.S. policies toward the Soviet Union and Soviet policies toward the United States.

We also touched upon some international problems, notably the question of the Middle East, some problems relating to Europe, some questions relating to the arms race and, of course, the question of the talks now in progress between the United States and the Soviet Union on the possibility of concluding a new SALT agreement deserves special emphasis.

That question is one of bilateral -- is bilateral by its character, but at the same time, it does have international significance. Both sides re-emphasized their desire and determination to continue the line of policy that was worked out and took concrete form in the recent years and first and foremost as a result of the Soviet-American summit meetings.

One can't mention all that was discussed in all details, but I think I have mentioned the most important things that we discussed, basically relating to Soviet-American relations.

As regards problems of international questions and the question which I place special emphasis on -- that is the question of a new SALT agreement -- as I said, that is a bilateral issue which has very important international significance.

I feel that there has been a thorough exchange of views. I cannot say it was very easy or simple, but then neither are the questions easy or simple.

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On both sides, the desire -- and I would say the determination -- was expressed to find points of contact on some matters and on some -- and you probably know this yourselves -- there are still some differences as regards the question of preparing a new agreement, a new agreement to limit strategic arms.

Both sides reaffirmed their readiness to continue the negotiations to achieve further success in preparing the agreement. That is all that I am prepared to tell you, and I do believe that you would be acting very correctly if you didn't ask me too many questions.

Q Will there be a summit meeting in Washington with Secretary Brezhnev this year?

FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO: The agreement in principle on this matter has been achieved, and it is fully valid today, and this was reaffirmed once again during the meeting.

I would not now like to go into the question of specific dates or timing. I am sure that journalists with such great experience as all of you have will understand me correctly.

Thank you very much.

Q Can you say whether it will be this year, the summit meeting in Washington?

FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO: I just told you I would not like to go into the specific dates and timing, and may I repeat that I trust you will understand me correctly.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 7:08 P.M. EDT)