

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President met this afternoon with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, who is in the United States for the United Nations General Assembly session. Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin, Secretary of State Kissinger, Counselor of the Department of State Helmut Sonnenfeldt, and Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs William Hyland participated in today's talks.

As you may recall, Foreign Minister Gromyko met with the President in Washington in 1974 and 1975 on the occasion of his visits to the United States for UN General Assembly sessions. Today's meeting provided the opportunity for a very useful and far-ranging review of bilateral and international matters.

The President and the Foreign Minister had constructive discussions, in which they reviewed the current state of American-Soviet relations, and in particular the prospects for a Strategic Arms Limitation Agreement. Both agreed on the importance to reaching an agreement that will fully implement the understanding reached in Vladivostok in November, 1974 and agreed to continue their exchanges.

In addition, they discussed the Middle East, including the Soviet statement published today.