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MALTA MEETING  
TALKING POINTS

- President Bush held some eight hours of candid and useful discussions with Chairman Gorbachev during their two days on Malta.
- The President decided it was important -- in advance of the formal summit in 1990 -- to sit down informally with Gorbachev and exchange views about the dramatic changes taking place, to give new political impetus to their relationship, and to review regional issues, bilateral relations and the pace of arms control.
  - o Malta provided the opportunity for an informal and open exchange of views across a wide range of topics.
  - o The President also took the opportunity to reiterate his personal commitment to placing the U.S.-Soviet relationship on a more stable, durable and cooperative basis.
  - o A better U.S.-Soviet relationship is valuable on its own terms and as an instrument for positive change in the world in general.
- In the spirit of giving an impetus to the U.S.-Soviet relationship, the President proposed a number of ideas to Gorbachev.
  - o Many concerned economic and commercial relations as measure of U.S. support for Soviet efforts to restructure and develop their economy; others entailed setting priorities for arms control, including START, nuclear testing, CW, CFE.
- Discussion on change in Eastern and Central Europe was truly remarkable: Gorbachev admitted candidly that democratic values the West has held dear for so long should set standard for all humanity.
  - o He focused repeatedly on importance of stability, but reiterated that Eastern Europeans need to find their own way forward. Gorbachev noted his own concept of Europe included United States, Canada.

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- On arms control, President succeeded in giving high-level push in key areas and set priorities of our negotiators to pursue in months ahead.
  - o These include START, nuclear testing, chemical weapons and CFE.
  - o Although Gorbachev predictably raised naval arms control, President explained why we saw little prospect for it.
  
- On regional issues, President expressed our concern about the gap between Soviet rhetorical support for peaceful settlements and realities of Soviet conduct.
  - o The discussion was largely disappointing.
  - o The President noted Soviet policy on regional conflicts was out of step with the new Soviet directions domestically, in Eastern Europe and in arms control.
  - o He offered to work with the Soviets on regional conflicts and on including them in regional diplomacy. The President observed that with inclusion comes responsibility, and made clear that the U.S. hopes to see such signs of responsibility in Central America, the Middle East and Asia.
  - o Nicaragua and Cuba remain the single most disruptive factor in U.S.-Soviet relations. The President asked that Moscow use its influence with Managua and Havana to curb their support for subversion.
  - o On Afghanistan, the Soviets talked of a transition process. Of course, in our view, a transition must entail a transfer of power.
  
- The leaders discussed priorities for moving forward in the U.S.-Soviet relationship, with a view to next year's Summit in the United States.
  - o The President and Chairman Gorbachev agreed the Summit will take place during the last two weeks of June.
  - o They further agreed that the meeting should be well-prepared, including thorough meetings at the Ministerial level. The first of these between Secretary Baker and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will take place in the Soviet Union in late January.

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