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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13697
Folder ID Number: 13697-005

Folder Title:
Departure Ceremony--Andrews Air Force Base 11/30/89 [OA 6342]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	19	5	3

(Lange/Martin)
November 27, 1989
4:30 p.m.
[MALTDEP.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DEPARTURE CEREMONY
[ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE]
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1989
6:20 P.M.

In recent years our relations with the Soviet Union have changed greatly -- and for the better.

Tonight, I leave for the island nation of Malta, and an historic first meeting with President Gorbachev. This meeting represents a point of departure -- the beginning of a process, as full of promise as any we've known. Given the rapid and remarkable change in Eastern Europe, our meeting will be yet another important step in the long but hopeful journey, toward a Europe whole and free.

I leave bearing with me an understanding of our past -- conveyed on the winds of two centuries of freedom -- but convinced that in the future, more nations of the world will find their course by the light of liberty.

In our conversations, we will begin as emissaries from two halves of a once-divided world, that now seeks unity. We will not be negotiating. We will be talking about our hopes, our concerns, our aspirations for the future.

America understands the magnitude of Mr. Gorbachev's challenges. We will look for ways to assist reform wherever we can. To move beyond containment in U.S.-Soviet relations. To find areas of shared concern -- and mutual advantage. Above all, to work toward a level of security, prosperity, and peace as yet unknown in our lifetime.

Ours is a powerful and historic opportunity -- standing with our allies in Europe as long as they want and need us -- to forge the beginnings of a more stable world order. The last decade of this century marks the beginning of a new era -- the gateway to a new millenium of freedom.

Freedom is a force that has moved the world. We have all felt that movement. We have seen how it brings people together. Our challenge now is to find common ground -- a place to stand, and serve, as active agents for positive, productive change.

In that spirit, we will extend the offered hand with confidence, conviction, and hope.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless freedom-loving people everywhere.

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(Lange/Martin)
November 27, 1989
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(Lange/Martin)
November 27, 1989
12:00 p.m.
[MALTDEP.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DEPARTURE CEREMONY
[ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE]
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1989
6:20 P.M.

In recent years our relations with the Soviet Union have changed greatly -- and for the better.

Today I leave to meet with President Gorbachev. These meetings represent a point of departure -- the beginning of a process, as full of promise as any we've known. They are an important first step, but only a first step, in a long and hopeful journey, toward a Europe whole and free.

I leave bearing with me an understanding of our past -- conveyed by the winds of two centuries of freedom -- and convinced that we are headed toward the brightest star of all, the star of freedom.

In our conversations, we will begin as emissaries from two halves of a once-divided world, now seeking unity under that star of freedom. We will not be negotiating. We will be talking about our hopes, our concerns, our aspirations for the future.

America understands the magnitude of Mr. Gorbachev's challenges. We will look for ways to assist reform wherever we

can. To serve as agents of positive, productive change. To find areas of shared concern -- and mutual advantage. Above all, to work toward a level of security, prosperity, and peace as yet unknown in our lifetime.

Ours is a powerful and historic opportunity -- standing with our allies in Europe as long as they want and need us -- to forge the beginnings of a more stable world order.

A new era begins with the last decade of this century. It offers the opportunity to move beyond containment in U.S.-Soviet relations -- toward a new millenium of freedom.

I have spoken before about the era of the offered hand. Never before has this been more crucial. It is a hand we now offer with confidence and conviction, determined to foster a new stability in the community of nations.

The desire for freedom is a lever that has moved the world. We have all felt that movement. We have seen how it brings people together.

Our challenge now is to find common ground -- a place to stand, and serve, as active agents of this momentous, historic change. We will enlist the new forces of history¹ and pursue the star of freedom² for the sake of mankind.