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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Valletta, Malta)

For Immediate Release

December 3, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV UPON ARRIVAL ABOARD THE GORKY

Aboard The Gorky
Marsaxlokk Harbor, Malta

10:03 A.M. (L)

Q Was this a bad idea, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q A shipboard summit.

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was a very good idea.

Q But half your meetings were rained out.

Q Glad the Soviets brought a big boat stable enough to have the summit on?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we could have floated the Holiday Inn out there to do it on.

CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV: This whole incident shows that we can adjust to changing circumstances very well.

THE PRESIDENT: That's right.

Q Mr. President, what do you think about Central Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Which President are you speaking to?
(Laughter.)

Q It's a special question about Austria.

CHAIRMAN GORBACHEV: I can tell you that we'll have an important discussion, including a discussion of that theme, too. I promise that after we complete our talks, we'll talk to the press.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a good idea.

END

10:06 A.M. (L)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Valletta, Malta)

For Immediate Release

December 3, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
UPON DEPARTURE THE BELKNAP

Marsaxlokk Harbor, Malta

9:50 A.M. (L)

Q Mr. President, has the weather ruined this summit?

THE PRESIDENT: Hell, no. Hell, no. (Laughter.) The summit's going just fine, thanks.

Q Has it become the Gorky summit?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't matter where you meet. We were supposed to go over to the other ship and they couldn't make it over, so we don't care where we're meeting. The big thing is, we're getting something done here. That's good. So we're not standing on any protocol. These guys are ready to receive them. If they can't make out here, we'll go to them.

Q Are you getting less done because you have so much less time together?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, we had more time yesterday than we thought we'd have, and I think, looking at the reporting, it's coming out very well. And so the U.S. side anyway, I can say, we're very pleased with what has taken place.

Q Are you going to extend the talks?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we've had -- see, we got more time in yesterday up until coming over here than we thought. Personal meeting with Mr. Gorbachev. The luncheon proved to be a working meeting. We talked all during the lunch. So I don't think there is, but if that's -- their side thinks we need more time, fine. I said what I want to say and have a little more to say in a bit. But it's going well. It really is.

Q Any major -- on arms control, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as I told you before we came here, this is not an arms control summit. But if you'll stay tuned to our Press Secretary, we're going to do an official debrief, and I think you'll be pleased -- or I think most of the world will, with what we've decided in a broad sense in terms of talking further about various categories of arms control.

Q Is a START treaty really possible by next June?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, everything is possible. Yes, it's possible. We're fairly close together.

We'll see you all. Thank you, gentlemen.

END

9:53 A.M. (L)