



Max M. Kampelman Papers

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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A Private Dialogue with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev May 11, 1992 - United Nations

Sponsored by the UNA-USA Chairman's Council

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REMARKS BY
MAX M. KAMPELMAN
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S.
MEETING WITH
MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

New York, NY

May 11, 1992

Mr. President, the American people have welcomed you warmly and with enthusiasm. We of the United Nations Association of the U.S. greet you in that same spirit of friendship.

You and we, Mr. President, understandably have our roots in different traditions. We still have profoundly different perceptions about our earlier relationships, about Lenin and Stalin, about the origins of the cold war, about the Baltic States. It is not easy to escape one's ancestry. But we are determined not to permit those differences to tarnish our appreciation for the crucial, heroic and indispensable role you played in advancing the cause of peace and human dignity for the human race. You are assured that role in history and we feel privileged to be with you this afternoon.

No generation since the beginning has experienced as much change as our generation -- all due to the phenomenal contributions of science and technology.

It is said that more than 80% of all scientists who ever lived are alive today. During our lifetime, medical knowledge available to physicians has increased conservatively more than ten-fold. Advanced computers, new materials, new communication opportunities, new bio-technological processes are altering every phase of our lives, death, even reproduction, and it is only the beginning. More than 100,000 scientific journals annually publish a flood of new knowledge that flows out of the world's laboratories.

Global interdependence is now a reality. The world is smaller. But the world of politics has not kept pace with scientific realities. What you have done, Mr. President, is to help the world realize that it must now keep up with the world of technology by building a world community. People are still massively killing each other and that must end.

National boundaries can keep out vaccines, but those boundaries cannot keep out germs, or thoughts, or broadcasts. The promises and realities for a better life cannot be hidden. The less fortunate know that societies which respect human dignity and can bring the benefits of modern medicine and food production to them are only hours away. They do not wish to wait.

What the world must come to learn is that a closed society cannot compete in a world experiencing an information explosion that knows no national boundaries. Keeping up with new opportunities requires openness to information, new ideas, and the democratic freedom which enables ingenuity to germinate and flourish.

Within this context, Mr. President, we welcome your leadership in directing the attention of our world and its leaders to the United Nations and the occasion it affords us to enlarge our horizons as we move forward toward a new world of peace and plenty.

Thank you very much for your historic achievements and for your continued leadership. There is room in your developing democracy as there is in our maturing one for former government leaders to play major roles in political discourse and wholesome responsible political competition. We don't know what the future holds for many of us, but we here do know that we would all be greatly enriched were the future to bring us even closer together in the pursuit of a world community based on principles of political, economic and social human dignity.

MMK SCHEDULE
MAY 11, 1992
NEW YORK, NY

8:15 a.m.	George at residence
9:00 a.m.	Depart National USAir shuttle
9:59 a.m.	Arrive LaGuardia
	Met by Love Taxi
	United Nations
	Russ Dallin will meet you at delegates entrance (45th & 1st)
11:00 a.m.	UNA/US Press Conference Press Room
1:00 p.m.	Working luncheon UNDelegates Dining Room (#6)
3:00 p.m.	Meeting with Gorbachev
?	Return to Washington