

## Materials on

# The Reykjavik Summit

## (October 1986)

In September 1986, Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations, was arrested in a New York subway station and accused of spying. Shortly thereafter, Nicholas Daniloff, an American in the Soviet Union reporting for *US News and World Report*, was arrested and charged with spying. After several days of confrontational press releases, George Shultz, the US Secretary of State and Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, met in a secret session to discuss the situation. On September 30th, Daniloff was freed and flown to the United States, Zakharov pleaded 'no contest' to spying charges in a Federal Court in New York, the Soviet government promised freedom for dissident Yuri Olov and his wife Irina Valitova, and a meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev was announced for October 11 and 12, only ten days away.

The meeting was touted as a planning session for a later, full-fledged summit to which Reagan and Gorbachev had agreed at Geneva in 1985. Gorbachev had continually delayed plans for such a summit, stating that negotiation would only take place when concrete agreement was feasible. (Gorbachev became cautious after Geneva, when he faced intense domestic criticism for failing to conclude a binding agreement with the United States.)

As you read these materials, consider the wisdom of a "planning" summit where discussions occur without commitment. What advantages or disadvantages do you see in such a meeting? How did the reality of Reykjavik differ from this pre-summit model, and what were the consequences of this departure? What might the parties have done to avoid these difficulties?

## CITATIONS

### The Reykjavik Summit

1. "Clearing the Road to the Summit," Marshall I. Goldman, The Boston Globe, Oct. 5, 1986.
2. "Excerpts Form the Reagan and Shultz Conference on Iceland and Dissident," NY Times , Oct 1, 1986.
3. "U.S. Hopes to Use Meeting in Iceland to Spur Arms Pact," Michael Gordon, NY Times, Oct 2, 1986.
  - 3a. "Soviet Looking to Progress On Arms in Iceland Session," Serge Schmemann, NY Times, Oct. 2, 1986.
4. "U.S. Aides Upbeat On Iceland Talks," Bernard Weinraub, NY Times, Oct 4, 1986.
5. "Gorbachev, In Iceland, Hope of Ending War Threat," Bernard Weinraub, Oct. 11, 1986.
6. "Reagan - Gorbachev Meeting Opens Plans to Pursue Arms Pact and Rights Issues," Leslie Gelb, NY Times , Oct 12, 1986.
  - 6a. "Work Units Set Up," Bernard Weinraub, NY Times, Oct 12, 1986.
7. "Reagan-Gorbachev Talks Ends In Stalemate...", NY Times, Oct 13, 1986.
  - 7a. "Sticking Points in Iceland," Leslie Gelb, NY Times, Oct 13, 1986.
  - 7b. " No U.S. Summit Date," Bernard Gwertzman, NY Times, Oct 13, 1986.
  - 7c. "Remarks by Reagan and Gorbachev after Reykjavik," NY Times, Oct 13, 1986.
8. Cartoon about Reykjavik Summit, Danziger, Christian Science Monitor, Oct 30, 1986.
9. "Arms Control: What might have been," NY Times, Oct 14, 1986.
  - 9a. "Reagan Says Soviet Barred Accord On Arms Reduction...", Gerald M. Boyd, NY Times, Oct 14, 1986.
  - 9b. "In Iceland: How Grim Ending Followed Hard -Won Gains," Bernard Weinraub, NY Times, Oct 14, 1986.
10. "Reykjavik's Grounds for Hope," George Bundy, George F. Kennan, Robert S. McNamara, and Gerard Smith, NY Times, Oct 23, 1986.

## CHRONOLOGY The Reykjavik Summit

### Prelude

#### **1972**

May 29 Leonid Brezhnev and Richard Nixon sign the ABM treaty limiting antiballistic missile systems.

#### **1985**

November Reagan and Gorbachev agree at the Geneva summit to meet again in the United States in 1986.

#### **1986**

September 30 Zakharov is arrested and accused of spying in New York. Shortly thereafter, Daniloff is arrested and also accused of spying. Shultz and Shevardnadze meet to discuss the situation.

September 30

Soviet government frees Daniloff and promises freedom for dissident Yuri Olov and his wife. Zakharov pleads 'no contest' to spying charges in a Federal Court in New York. Tass reports that a superpower summit will be held in Iceland on October 11 and October 12. Later in the day, Reagan announces summit plans from Washington.

### The Reykjavik Summit

#### **1986**

October 11 First day of talks. U.S. and Soviet support staffs form working groups on arms control and human rights. Gorbachev states that he will not set a date for a future summit unless "prospects for signing a major arms control pact are high."

October 12

Final day of talks. After two-day total of eleven hours of discussion, the summit ends in an impasse over the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

#### **1987**

September Reagan and Gorbachev sign an arms control agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF).

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**  
**The Reykjavik Summit**

Nicholas Daniloff, American reporter in the Soviet Union arrested and charged with spying.

Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee, CPSU, of the USSR.

Yuri Olov, Soviet dissident in Siberian exile. The Soviet government granted him freedom when returning Daniloff.

Ronald Reagan, President of the United States

George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State

Eduard Shevardnadze, Soviet Foreign Minister

Irina Valitova, wife of Yuri Olov, resident of Moscow

Gennadi Zakharov, Soviet employee of the U.N. arrested and charged with spying.

**FURTHER READING**  
**The Reykjavik Summit**

Gorbachev, Mikhail. *Reykjavik: Results and Lessons*, Madison: Sphinx Press (1987)

Weinrod, Bruce. *President Reagan's Summit Meeting in Geneva*, Washington, (District of Columbia): Heritage Foundation (1985)