

Excerpt from "Remarks of the President and Soviet Chairman Gorbachev and a Question-and-Answer Session With Reporters in Malta December 3, 1989"

G. Bush.

Ladies and gentlemen, President Gorbachev has graciously suggested I go first. And I don't think anyone can say that the saltwater get-together was anything other than adventure -- at least out in the harbour here.

First, I want to thank Prime Minister Adami and the people of Malta and others for their warm and gracious hospitality...

... And so, I'm especially glad we had this meeting. And we did gain a deeper understanding of each other's views. We set the stage for progress across a broad range of issues. And while it is not for the United States and the Soviet Union to design the future for Europeans or for any other people, I am convinced that a cooperative U.S.-Soviet relationship can, indeed, make the future safer and brighter. And there is virtually no problem in the world, and certainly no problem in Europe, that improvement in the U.S.-Soviet relationship will not help to ameliorate. A better U.S.-Soviet relationship is to be valued in and of itself, but it also should be an instrument of positive change for the world.

M. Gorbachev

Ladies and gentlemen, comrades, there are many symbolic things about this meeting, and one of them -- it has never been in the history that the leaders of our two countries hold a joint press conference.

...Our meeting was characterized by openness, by a full scope of the exchange of views. Today it is even difficult, and perhaps there is no sense, to explain the entire range of issues that we have discussed. I wish to say right away, nevertheless, that on all the major issues we attempted in a frank manner, using each side's arguments, to explain our own positions, both with regards to the assessment of the situation and the current changes in the world and Europe and as it regards disarmament issues. We addressed the Geneva negotiating process, the Vienna process, and also negotiations on the elaboration of the convention on chemical weapons ban. All those questions were considered thoroughly.

Source:

President George H. W. Bush, "Joint Press Conference of President Bush and Chairman Gorbachev at the Malta Summit," *Making the History of 1989*, Item #40, <http://chnm.gmu.edu/1989/items/show/40> (accessed May 10 2018, 2:42 am).