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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vladivostok, USSR)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF A TOAST TO BE DELIVERED
AT AN INFORMAL DINNER
VLADIVOSTOK, USSR

Mr. General Secretary:

Let me say a few words about the special significance of this, our first official meeting.

The world has become accustomed to regular meetings between the leaders of the Soviet and American peoples. Cooperation between our two countries has intensified, both in tempo and in substance, during the past few years. As a result, all people now have a better chance to live in peace and security.

The fact that these meetings have become more regular testifies to the significance attached to them by both countries. In these meetings we are able to conduct our discussions in a business-like and constructive manner. We are able to make important progress on the issues that concern us.

I look forward to continuing the close working relationship developed between the leaders of our countries.

In my first address to the United States Congress, I pledged to the Soviet Union to continue America's commitment to the course followed in the last three years.

Mr. General Secretary, I personally reaffirm that pledge to you now. As nations with great power, we share a responsibility not only to our own people, but to mankind. We must avoid war and the destruction it would mean. Let us get on with the business of controlling arms. Let us contribute through our cooperation to the resolution of the great problems facing mankind.

The problems of food, population, and energy are not confined to any one country, or to countries at an early stage of economic development. They affect people everywhere. If this age is to be remembered favorably in history, it will be because we met these responsibilities.

May I propose a toast to our joint search for solutions to the problems facing mankind.

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