The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “USSR - Nikolas Podgorny” of the National Security Adviser’s Presidential Correspondence with Foreign Leaders Collection at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 1975, inviting the United States of America to send a delegation to take part in Soviet observations marking the 30th Anniversary of the restoration of peace in Europe.

The American people have the deepest respect for the contributions and sacrifices made by the Soviet Union in the course of the Second World War. Our countries experienced the agonies of war as allies. The anniversary of our wartime cooperation is another reminder of the need to work together to maintain the peace. It is in this spirit that I am pleased to accept your invitation to send a delegation to the Moscow commemorative ceremonies.

I have asked one of our most distinguished Americans, W. Averell Harriman, to lead the U.S. delegation. His long connection with the Soviet Union and his wartime service in Moscow as our Ambassador symbolize the significance of this anniversary.

I share your belief that our participation in these commemorative ceremonies will contribute further to the development of mutual understanding between our countries.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

His Excellency
N. Podgorny
Chairman of the Presidium
of the USSR Supreme Soviet
Moscow
MEMORANDUM FOR:  GEORGE SPRINGSTEEN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TO:  V. Podgorny
FROM:  President
DATE:  Apr 23, 1975
SUBJECT:  Response to USSR invitation

ACTION REQUESTED:

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RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

TRANSLATION

APPROPRIATE HANDLING

INFORMATION

FOR ADDITIONAL PROCESSING AS INDICATED:

DUE DATE:

URGENT
RUTINE

COMMENTS:

[Signature]

Staff Secretary
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Check self
Draft for
delivery.

Best
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

- phone with Sec. to discuss for USSR file.

- ask Sec. to send to State for delivery to USSR.

Loretta - write on that needs to be dated.

gram
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

SUBJECT: Reply to Chairman Podgorny

On March 20, Chairman Podgorny wrote (at Tab B) to inform you of plans for observation of the 30th anniversary of V-E Day in the Soviet Union. Podgorny stated that a ceremony will be held in Moscow on May 8 and invited you to send an official delegation representing the United States.

With your approval, I have asked Averell Harriman to lead our delegation to the V-E Day celebration in Moscow and he has accepted. As wartime U.S. ambassador in Moscow, he is a particularly appropriate choice.

The reply for your signature to Podgorny at Tab A would note the contributions and sacrifices made by the Soviet Union in World War II, point out that the anniversary of our wartime cooperation is another reminder of the need to work together to maintain the peace, and accept the invitation to send a delegation to Moscow. The reply would name Harriman as head of the U.S. delegation.

Your letter to Chairman Podgorny has been cleared with Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.
MEMORANDUM
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
1999

CONFIDENTIAL/NODIS

ACTION
April 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: Mr. Clift
SUBJECT: Reply to Chairman Podgorny on V-E Day Celebrations

On March 20, Chairman Podgorny wrote the President (at Tab B) to inform him of plans for observation of the 30th anniversary of V-E Day in the USSR. Podgorny stated that a commemorative ceremony will be held in Moscow on May 8 and invited an official delegation from the United States to participate.

You have suggested -- and the President has approved -- that Averell Harriman lead the U.S. delegation. Harriman has accepted, and has asked for the last word in selecting the other members of the delegation. State notes that depending on the level at which our allies are represented, the President may wish to designate Harriman as his Special Representative for this trip. In view of the importance of this occasion to the Soviets, I believe it would be appropriate and advisable for him to be so designated regardless of the level of the other participants.

The memorandum for your signature to the President at Tab I would forward a reply to Chairman Podgorny (at Tab A). The President's letter would note the contributions and sacrifices made by the Soviet Union in World War II, point out that the anniversary of our wartime cooperation is another reminder of the need to work together to maintain the peace, and accept the invitation to send a delegation to Moscow. It would name Mr. Harriman as head of the U.S. delegation.

The President's reply has been cleared with Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION
That you sign the letter at Tab I.

CONFIDENTIAL/NODIS

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5
NSC MEMO, 11094, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES
BY: , , , , , MARA, DATE: 5/14/75
MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Response to Soviet Invitation to Send US Delegation to Soviet V-E Day Celebrations

Attached is a draft reply for the President's signature responding to Soviet Chief of State Podgorny's invitation to send a delegation to the Soviet V-E Day celebrations.

Averell Harriman has agreed to the Secretary's suggestion that he lead the US delegation. Harriman told Mr. Sonnenfeldt that he would like to have the last word in selecting the other members of his delegation.

We will be informing NATO and our overseas posts of the Soviet invitation and our intention to send Harriman. Depending on the level at which our allies are represented, the President may wish to designate Harriman as his Special Representative for purposes of this trip.

George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 1975 inviting the United States of America to send a delegation to take part in Soviet observations marking the 30th Anniversary of the restoration of peace in Europe.

The American people have the deepest respect for the contributions and sacrifices made by the Soviet Union in the course of the Second World War. Our countries experienced the agonies of war as allies. The anniversary of our wartime cooperation is another reminder of the need to work together to maintain the peace. It is in this spirit that I am pleased to accept your invitation to send a delegation to the Moscow commemorative ceremonies.

His Excellency,
N. Podgorny,
Chairman of the Presidium,
of the USSR Supreme Soviet,
Moscow.
One of our most distinguished Americans, W. Averell Harriman, has agreed to lead the US delegation. His long connection with the Soviet Union and his wartime service in Moscow as our Ambassador symbolize the significance of this anniversary.

I share your belief that our participation in these commemorative ceremonies will contribute further to the development of mutual understanding between our countries.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford
March 20, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

This year in the Soviet Union, in the name of an active struggle for lasting peace and security of peoples, there will be a wide-scale observation of the 30th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. The 30th anniversary of the victory is not only a nation-wide holiday of the Soviet Union but also our common holiday with the peoples of states-members of the antihitlerite coalition who made a great contribution to the common historic victory over the forces of aggression and enslavement of peoples. In commemoration of the anniversary, a ceremonial meeting will be held in Moscow on May 8, 1975, and a number of other events will also take place.

I have the honor to invite an official delegation of the USA consisting of 3 to 5 persons to come to the Soviet Union for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the victory. The American guests participating in the ceremonial meeting and other events will be accorded due hospitality and attention.

His Excellency
Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.
We believe that the visit of the US delegation to our country on the occasion of the anniversary celebrations will promote further development of mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

N. Podgorny,
Chairman of the Presidium
of the USSR Supreme Soviet

Moscow
The Kremlin
TO:        Mr. Garrison - 50 V

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Executive Secretary

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George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

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Attachment Classification

GSS Signature
Clift

For your review prior to dispatch.

I will be sending this to State for further forwarding to Podgorny unless otherwise instructed.
SUBJECT: Response to USSR invitation to send U.S. delegation to Soviet V.E. Day Celebrations in
Moscow on May 8, 1975

MEMO FOR HAK

MEMO FOR PRES

EYES ONLY

EXDIS CODEWORD

REPLY FOR

APPROPRIATE ACTION

Recommendations

Joint Memo

Refer to

Any Action Necessary

Concurrence

Due Date: 4/12

Hub 1830 to anchors

NOTIFY

DATE

BY

SPECIAL DISPOSITION

ACCEPTED

Dispatch

CY RIGHTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS

NOTIFY

Special Disposition

ACCEPTED

Dispatch

ACCEPTED

Dispatch

ACCEPTED

Dispatch
MEMORANDUM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Brent Scowcroft

SUBJECT: Message From Chairman Nikolas Podgorny

Nikolas Podgorny, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, has sent you the following message extending sympathy to the victims of the Idaho dam disaster:

"Moscow
June 8, 1976

"Dear Mr. President:

"In the name of the Soviet people, I express deep sympathy on the occasion of the disaster that has struck the population of the State of Idaho as the result of the breaking of the Teton Dam which has led to loss of life and great material damage.

"Please convey our heartfelt sympathy to the families of the deceased and all those who have suffered.

Respectfully,

N. Podgorny"

Chairman Podgorny's message parallels the expression of sympathy you sent him last May following the earthquake disaster in Soviet Central Asia (Tab A). No reply is necessary.
May 17, 1976

Dear Chairman Podgorny,

I wish to extend to the Soviet peoples our sincere and deep sympathy for victims of the earthquake disaster in Soviet Central Asia.

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford
MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: Mr. Clift

SUBJECT: Message From Chairman Nikolas Podgorny

Chairman Podgorny has sent the President a message of sympathy on the occasion of the Idaho dam disaster.

The memorandum for your signature at Tab I would forward the text of Chairman Podgorny's message, together with the comment that it parallels his own expression of sympathy on the occasion of the earthquake in Soviet Central Asia last May.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

Rather thoughtful of the Bolshuiks.
УВАЖАЕМЫЙ Г-Н ПРЕЗИДЕНТ,
от имени Совета Народных Комиссаров СССР и имени президента Совета Министров СССР

ОСОБОЕННО ПОДЧЕРКНУТЫЕ ПОДЖИДАЮ СОБОЛЬ ЗАЖИВО

О ГИБЕЛИ ВАШЕГО НАСЕЛЕНИЯ В РЕЗУЛЬТАТЕ ПРОИСШЕСТВИЯ.

УВАЖАЕМЫЙ ПОДОГНУЙ ПРЕЗИДЕНТУ ПРЕЗИДИУМУ ВЕРХОВНОГО

СОВЕТА СССР

8 ИЮНЯ 1976 ГОДА МОСКВА КРЕМЛ

G

NOTE: THIS CABLE IS RELEASED SUBJECT TO CORRECTION. IT IS TO BE RETRANSMITTED FOLLOWING PRINTER REPAIR.
THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

УВАЖАЕМЫЙ Г-Н ПРЕЗИДЕНТ,

ОТ ИМЕННИ СИВЕТСКОГО НАРОДА ВЫРАЖАЮ ГЛУБОКОЕ СОБОЛЕЗНОВАНИЕ

ПО ПОВОДУ БЕДСТВИЯ, ПОСТАВШЕГОСЯ НАСЕЛЕНИЮ ШТАТА АЙДАHO В

РЕЗУЛЬТАТЕ ПРОРЫВА ТЕТОНСКОЙ ПЛОТИНЫ, ЧТО ПРИВЕЛО К ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКИМ

ЖЕРТВАМ И БОЛЬШОМУ МАТЕРИАЛНОМУ УСКЕРБУ. ПРОШУ ПЕРЕДАТЬ НАСЕЛЕНИЮ

ИСКРЕННЕЕ СОЧУВСТВИЕ СЕМЬЯМ ПОГИБШИХ И ВСЕМ

ПОСТРАДАВШИМ.

С УВАЖЕНИЕМ

ПОДГОРНЫЙ ПРЕЗИДЕНТУ ПРЕЗИДИУМА ВЕРХОВНОГО

СОВЕТА СССР

8 ИЮНЯ 1976 ГОДА МОСКВА КРЕМЛЬ
TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT

Robert D. Linder
**NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE**

**TO**: Pres.

**FROM**: SecState

**SUBJECT**: Urg. msg. of importance to Prev. to Heho - Dom. disaster for Peking

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**DATE** | **FROM** | **TO** | **STATUS** | **SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED OR TAKEN** | **PLACE** | **CV 1D**
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6/10 | Rike | Scot | Info | | |
6/15 | Pake | Scot | Info | | |