

1

PIKRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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TEXT OF JOINT US/USSR STATEMENT
FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
APRIL 28-29, 1974

Foreign Minister Gromyko and Secretary of State Kissinger met on Sunday, April 28 and Monday, April 29 in Geneva for a full review of questions of mutual interest to the United States and the Soviet Union. The discussions were conducted in a friendly and constructive spirit. Both sides expressed their determination to pursue the political course that has been firmly established in their relations, and which has found expression in the results of earlier Soviet-American meetings at the highest level for the benefit of their peoples and peace in the world.

In the course of their meetings the Minister and the Secretary exchanged views on various questions relating to the preparations for the forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union of President Nixon. It was agreed that a great deal has been accomplished in the preparations for the visit. The two sides expressed the conviction that a number of agreements designed to broaden cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union, to further reduce the danger of war and strengthen international peace will be prepared for conclusion at the Summit meetings.

In particular, there was also a review of the negotiations on limitation of strategic arms and the two sides agreed to pursue their efforts toward agreement.

The Minister and the Secretary exchanged views on the current status of the negotiations of a Middle East settlement and on the next phase of these negotiations. The two sides agreed to exercise their influence toward a positive outcome and to remain in close touch with each other so as to strive to coordinate their efforts for a peaceful settlement in the area. Both sides expressed themselves in favor of the resumption of the work of the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East at an early date.

They also reviewed the work of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The two sides reaffirmed their positions in favor of its successful conclusion as soon as possible.

Both sides consider the talks to have been valuable and welcomed the fact that discussions of this kind have become a regular practice of US-Soviet relations.

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For further information contact: