

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

COMMUNIQUE ON THE VISIT OF
USSR MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANDREI A. GROMYKO

At the invitation of the United States Government, Andrei A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, visited Washington, D. C., from February 3 to February 5, 1974. During his visit he held talks with President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Also taking part in the talks were:

On the American side:

Under Secretary-designate for Political Affairs Joseph Sisco;
Counselor of the Department of State Helmut Sonnenfeldt;
Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Arthur Hartman;
Ambassador-designate to the USSR Walter Stoessel.

On the Soviet side:

Ambassador to the United States, A. F. Dobrynin; Member
of the Collegium of the Foreign Ministry of the USSR G. M.
Korniyenko; Assistant to the Foreign Minister of the USSR
V. G. Makarov; and Y. M. Vorontsov, Minister-Counselor
of the Soviet Embassy.

In accordance with the understandings reached in May 1972 and June 1973 that the practice of consultations between the two countries should continue, an exchange of views took place on a number of subjects of mutual interest.

Both sides reaffirmed their determination to continue developing their relations along the lines established during President Nixon's visit to the Soviet Union in 1972 and General Secretary Brezhnev's visit to the United States in 1973 and reflected in the agreements concluded on those occasions.

In reviewing their bilateral relations, the two Sides discussed questions relating to the further limitation of strategic arms and prospects for the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries, as well as other pertinent matters. They expressed their agreement on the desirability of achieving progress in these and other areas.

The two Sides also held discussions on a number of current international topics.

Special attention was devoted to the Middle East. Both Sides attached particular importance to their special role at the Geneva conference, the need for a peaceful Middle East settlement and for progress toward that end within the framework of the Geneva Peace Conference.

In exchanging views on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, both Sides agreed that the Conference should reach a successful conclusion as soon as possible. The question of mutual force reduction in Central Europe was touched on.

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The exchange of views was conducted in a businesslike and constructive manner and was considered useful by both Sides.

It was agreed that Secretary Kissinger will visit Moscow in the second half of March 1974 in connection with preparations for the visit to the Soviet Union of President Nixon, which will take place this year in accordance with the agreement reached in June 1973.

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