



PRESS RELEASE

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL

ON THURSDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER 1985

Today President Reagan shared his impressions of his Geneva meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev with the NATO Alliance at a Special Session of the North Atlantic Council, attended by Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers and other Ministers. This session was the capstone of a process of remarkably close and frequent consultations on arms control matters and East-West relations. Since the resumption of the Geneva US-Soviet arms control negotiations in Geneva, in January 1984, the Council, in addition to its regular discussions, has met with Secretary Shultz, Ambassador Nitze and the heads of the US arms control team in Geneva on twelve separate occasions. During the same period the Special Consultative Group has had eight meetings to discuss the US negotiating position on INF.

The high level attendance at today's Session underscores the importance the Alliance attaches to developing a more constructive relationship with the East and to work for tangible progress in arms control. After hearing President Reagan's personal report, the members of the Council had a discussion around the table. They agreed that the meeting in Geneva marked a new beginning of what they hoped will become a closer and mutually more productive dialogue with the Soviet Union.