



CONFIDENTIAL

Washington, D C 20547

November 4, 1987

Dear Mr. Secretary, Mr. Carlucci:

We all agree that the upcoming summit, aside from its impact on the future course of bilateral U.S.-Soviet relations, should also be remembered as an affirmation of NATO unity and steadfastness. It will have been eight years -- precisely, on December 12 -- since NATO's historic dual-track INF decision was taken in Brussels in 1979.

Should the President decide to attend a NATO summit immediately after the summit in Washington, it would mark a perfect celebration of this anniversary -- more significantly, it would underscore the importance the President attaches to an INF agreement, to America's commitment to European security, and to close allied consultations. As congressional debate heats up over ratification, the President's ability to demonstrate solid European support for an INF accord will be a valuable asset.

There is another factor. Our own polling of European publics continues to show by overwhelming margins that Gorbachev is viewed more favorably than President Reagan (e.g. Britain (83%), Germany (80%), Italy (76%) and France (51%)), and more the advocate of peace and arms control. The Soviets will likely capitalize on these perceptions, maximizing their share of credit for the Washington summit. The President's immediate visit to Brussels would undercut these efforts. It would also affirm the President's take-charge leadership on Western security issues.

Such a visit, underlining the movement toward peace, in a historic setting, would result in wide media coverage of the President. Ronald Reagan's appearances in Europe and on television have always projected an image of leadership and trust. The positive perceptions generated by his activities with other NATO leaders in the summit context would enhance this rare opportunity. Also, the American media would extend wide coverage and pickup of these events, thus coincidentally providing a positive thrust to the President's image at home and on the INF ratification process.

I envision the President's trip as a short two-day affair with a single stop -- Brussels -- and with a single mission in mind -- the affirmation of NATO unity.

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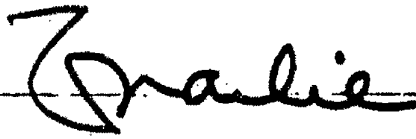
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hope you will agree with me that such a proposal should be a high priority on our summit planning agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Z. Wick", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles Z. Wick
Director

Honorable
George P. Shultz
Secretary of State

Honorable
Frank C. Carlucci
Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

Kenneth M. Duberstein

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