

CARTER

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN  
3038 N STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

January 10, 1977

TO: President-Elect Carter

FROM: Averell Harriman

The attached is a copy of answers from General Secretary Brezhnev to questions submitted by Joseph Kingsbury-Smith of the Hearst press, and published on December 29, 1976. It was sent to me by the Hearst organization for my information but only came to my attention on my return from Florida.

I think it is worth glancing through, as it is another indication that Brezhnev is attempting to make another friendly gesture towards you as an indication of his approach to negotiations after your inaugural.

VANCE

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN  
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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20007

January 10, 1977

TO: Cyrus Vance

FROM: W. Averell Harriman

I am sending the attached  
for your information. If it  
hasn't come to your attention  
before, I think it is worth  
your while to glance through it.

*Kingsbury-Smith  
attach*

BRZEZINSKI

W. AVERELL HARRIMAN  
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January 10, 1977

TO: Zbigniew Brzezinski

FROM: Averell Harriman

The attached is a copy of answers from General Secretary Brezhnev to questions submitted by Joseph Kingsbury-Smith of the Hearst press, and published on December 29, 1976. It was sent to me by the Hearst organization for my information but only came to my attention on my return from Florida.

You will remember that I told Mr. Brezhnev when I saw him in September that it would be helpful for him to make some friendly gestures in order to start his relations with the new administration in a good atmosphere to achieve agreement on SALT and other matters in which he is interested. This appears to be one of several he has made, including his statement at the plenary in October. I hope you will call this to the attention of the President-Elect, as it seems to me worth his glancing through.

ANSWERS BY L.I. BREZHNEV

## TO THE QUESTIONS OF JOSEPH KINGSBURY-SMITH

Joseph Kingsbury-Smith, National Editor and Vice President and Director of the Hearst Corporation, asked Leonid I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to answer some questions. The questions and the answers follow.

Q: What message would you like to convey to the American people for the New Year?

A: For the Soviet people the coming year will be a jubilee year. It will be the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the Soviet State, which was born under the star of Lenin's famous Decree on Peace. And, of course, in the coming year we would like to see new major steps taken to maintain and strengthen peace, to further enhance peaceful coexistence as the only reasonable and the only acceptable norm in relation between states.

History has proved that our two countries, when they act reasonably and take into account their responsible positions in the modern world, can make an important contribution to the cause of peace and the development of mutually advantageous cooperation.

I am glad to avail myself of this opportunity to convey to the women and men of America cordial New Year greetings on behalf of all the peoples of the Soviet Union and on my own behalf.

Q: What do you consider to be the most important measures of cooperation the USSR and the USA could take in 1977 to serve the cause of world peace and to strengthen Soviet-American relations?

A: I believe that our countries could do a lot in this respect. I shall only mention what is most important: We are in favour of the earliest possible completion of the work on a Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement on the basis of the understanding reached in Vladivostok in 1974. On our part, there was no is not and will not be any obstacles to this, which is a matter on concern to all mankind. A Soviet-American agreement would undoubtedly represent at this time a very important step toward effectively ending the arms race. The solution of this task is most directly connected with the main goal of our time - to prevent a nuclear war, while delaying the agreement, when the development of even more horrible types and systems of weapons continues, is fraught with new threats to peace, international stability and security. Judging by recent statements of President-elect Carter, the U.S. side is also aware of the urgency of this matter. Let us hope that this promises early success.

I have to say that we in the Soviet Union are baffled by the position of certain circles in the West, both in the United States and in other NATO countries. They behave as if nothing has happened in recent years, as if nothing has changed and the world continues to be in a state of cold war. They instigate one noisy campaign after another about an allegedly increasing military threat from the USSR, demanding more and more military appropriations and intensifying the arms race.

We believe that things should not continue in this way.

✓ Having achieved the relaxation of political tension, we have also made it possible to deal seriously with cardinal issues of arms limitation and disarmament. I would like to reaffirm most definitely: The Soviet Union does not threaten anybody and has no intention of attacking anybody. It makes no sense to be frightened by mythical threats; it is better to discuss in a businesslike and constructive manner the problems and opportunities which exist here. And the continuation of the arms race cannot be justified by assertions that arms limitation allegedly carries a risk to national security. Today a far greater risk to universal security lies in inaction, in letting the unrestrained arms race go on.

|| We would like very much to see the year of 1977 become a real turning point in ending the arms race. It would then surely find a worthy place in history.

Q: Would you welcome the opportunity to confer early in the New Year with the new American President at a mutually convenient location?

A: Experience, including that of Soviet-American relations, has shown the usefulness and fruitfulness of summit meetings when each participant strives for a constructive, businesslike dialogue. That is why we are for the continuation of this practice. The timing of the next Soviet-American meeting will

naturally, be determined by mutual agreement and will depend on progress in appropriate issues.

In conclusion I would like to repeat what has been said at the Twenty-Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union: Our country is firmly determined to follow the line of further improving Soviet-American relations which is in the interests of both the American and the Soviet peoples, as well as in the interests of universal peace.