

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: EAST-WEST RELATIONSI. OVERVIEW

- o Ongoing changes in East Bloc have created opportunities; but essential to maintain consistent approach to deal effectively with continued challenges to Western interests.
- o Potential for turmoil exists. Policy should focus on our interests and agenda, not on affecting change inside Soviet Union, if East-West relations are to be kept on even keel.
- o While taking encouragement from internal liberalization and changes in foreign policy, Western Governments need to counter public perception that Soviet threat has receded.
- o Past successes were result of Western unity and patience; future success requires continued coordination.

II. STATUS OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS

- o Relationship has evolved positively, validating our approach and agenda:
 - Human Rights
 - Considerable progress in Moscow's record, but need to do more, particularly if Soviets insist on Moscow Human Rights Conference as part of conclusion of Vienna meeting.
 - Arms Control
 - Major progress unlikely before START round ends, but both sides doing useful work in START.
 - Hope to finish protocols to PNET and TTBT this year.
 - Launching of CST dependent on completion of mandate, resolution of autonomy issue, and balanced CSCE outcome.
 - Regional Issues
 - Experts' exchanges on regional troublespots continue.
 - Soviets anxious about Afghanistan; we expect full troop withdrawal by Feb. 15 deadline despite rhetoric.
 - USSR playing helpful role in Angola/Namibia talks; may be prepared to do same in southeast Asia.

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working visit of U.K.
Prime Minister Thatcher