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PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE : US/SOVIET RELATIONS.

AT HIS NATIONALLY TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE ON 11 NOVEMBER PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS ASKED ABOUT US/SOVIET RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF BREZHNEV . MR REAGAN SAID THAT THE US WOULD REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. THE US HAD PUT FORWARD FAR REACHING PROPOSALS TO REDUCE FORCE LEVELS AND WOULD PURSUE EVERY AVENUE FOR PEACE. BUT PEACE WAS THE PRODUCT OF STRENGTH, NOT WEAKNESS. HE HAD FELT FOR SOME TIME THAT THE EXISTENCE OF DEEP ECONOMIC RECESSION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD COULD CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH NATIONS WOULD DECIDE THAT THEIR INTERESTS LAY IN GETTING ALONG TOGETHER RATHER THAN IN AGRESSION ON THE PART OF ONE AND RESISTANCE ON THE PART OF ANOTHER. THE US HAD TRIED TO HAVE BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BUT FOR 10 YEARS DETENTE HAD BEEN A MATTER OF WORDS ONLY FOR THE SOVIET UNION. ACTION WAS NEEDED TO BACK THEIR WORDS: 'IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO'. ASKED IF THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE TOWARDS A BETTER RELATIONSHIP, MR REAGAN REPLIED THAT SOME SAID HE HAD ALREADY MADE IT BY LIFTING THE GRAIN EMBARGO. HAD THE UNITED STATES GOT ANYTHING IN RETURN?

2. ASKED ABOUT ATTENDANCE AT BREZHNEV'S FUNERAL, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF THE VISITS OF OVERSEAS LEADERS TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK (KOHL AND BEGIN) HE WOULD NOT BE GOING. VICE PRESIDENT BUSH WOULD PROBABLY GO.

WRIGHT