



CANADA

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

May 2, 1989

Dear George,

In recent weeks we have been greatly concerned with ensuring that the forthcoming NATO Summit is successful in demonstrating convincingly to our publics our commitment to peace, arms control and cooperation with the East. When you were here in February we discussed the need to capture the initiative from Gorbachev to ensure our efforts are not lost in the glare of his public diplomacy. The recent problems the Alliance has encountered with SNF modernization, and the growing publicity being given to this dispute, which often is portrayed incorrectly as an argument between those who are for arms control and those who are against it, has only heightened the need for a broad, bold NATO initiative at the Summit. I believe that even if we succeed in resolving the SNF issue the need for such a NATO initiative remains.

Individually many of our nations have taken major steps to enhance cooperation with the Soviet Union. American leadership in this area has been particularly noticeable with such initiatives as regular summits and exchanges of visits by Defence Ministers and Chiefs of Defence Staff. Collectively, as an alliance, we have not appeared to be so forthcoming. This is unfortunate as it undermines crucial public support for NATO.

We, in Canada, have been intrigued to learn through our regular process of consultation, that serious thought has been given within your Administration to putting forward a new "Open Skies" initiative. I believe a NATO Summit announcement calling on the East to begin discussions with NATO on an "Open Skies" agreement would be a most appropriate major gesture. "Open Skies" has always been seen as symbolizing both the West's values and our commitment to easing tensions. Properly presented, "Open Skies" would capture the public's imagination. I, therefore, would urge you to give serious consideration to pursuing such an initiative for the NATO Summit.

The President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

In addition to its public relations value, "Open Skies" would contribute substantively to increasing confidence. It would also provide a major part of the requirement for the verification of any future agreements on Conventional Forces and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe. It could also be helpful in the verification of a START agreement. While the information gained from "Open Skies" would be more significant for the Allies who do not have the satellite-monitoring capability you have, I believe the implementation of "Open Skies" could also add to your ability to monitor activities in the Warsaw Pact. Indeed, the substantive significance of the initiative is what would give "Open Skies" its value as a means of publicly demonstrating our support for arms control.

Finally, I would note that there is a very real possibility that President Gorbachev might himself put forward such an initiative. If he were to do so it would be politically difficult to say no and the West would get no credit for agreeing. It would be seen as further evidence of the East taking the initiative.

Canada would be pleased to support you in whatever way you consider appropriate in promoting this idea or any other you may wish to put forward to our Allies in advance of the Summit and in elaborating a proposal. I look forward to discussing the idea with you on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,



Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet (George Bush Library)

Doc. No. / Type	Subject/Title	Date	Restriction	Classification
01. Memo	Brent Scowcroft to POTUS, re: Telephone Call to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada. [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (1 pp.)	05/10/89	(B)(1)	S
02. Talking Points	Points to Be Made for Telephone Conversation with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (1 pp.)	n.d.	(b)(1)	S
03. Letter 48	Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Candad to POTUS, re: NATO Summit. [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (2 pp.)	05/02/89	(b)(1)	
04. Memo	Philip Zelikow to Brent Scowcroft, re: Recommended Telephone Call to Prime Minister Mulroney on Open Skies. [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (2 pp.)	05/10/89	(b)(1)	S
05. Memo	Brent Scowcroft 'Memorandum for the Record,' re: POTUS telephone call to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada. [SENT FOR AGENCY REFERRAL] (1 pp.)	05/10/89	(b)(1)	

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