

## Transcript

Meeting of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation

R.I. Khasbulatov with Mr. Woerner

**Oval Hall**

**14.30.**

**February 25, 1992**

**R.I. Khasbulatov.** We are considering with great satisfaction the tone that is present in the negotiations, in the conversations with the leaders of the NATO countries that are taking place now. The Russian parliament supports it, and also welcomes your visit to the Russian Federation.

**M. Woerner.** Mr. Chairman it is a great honor for me to appear before the Russian parliament. I myself was a member of parliament for 33 years. Your parliament is taking on increasing importance in maintaining democracy. I still have photographs that show that important period in your history when men and women defended democracy.

Your parliament also has a special emotional significance for me. You yourself said that our countries are getting closer together. Today, the Cold War is already behind us and the time has come for cooperation. This, really, is the purpose of my visit to Russia: to establish and solidify connections with the political leadership of your country, members of parliament, and also with the military of the Russian Federation. This is the main point of the negotiations that I am conducting with you.

**R.I. Khasbulatov.** Yes, a noble trip. Of course, in this respect, this is obviously the first visit, which, one could say, is aimed at solidifying the positive changes in the military-political life for both Europe and modern civilization.

Of course, we have lots of problems in relations with our former republics. You, probably, know about it. But I would not make a tragedy out of these problems, because the movement towards the commonwealth -- this is a very serious step in itself. There are many problems, but it is important that such a commonwealth has been founded, and of course, through this commonwealth, we intend to remove possible threats that could face the world from various parts of the former Soviet Union. Of course, this has to do with nuclear weapons as well.

So, as you can see, we inherited a lot of problems, internal problems, problems within the former republics of the Soviet Union. But this does not mean that Russia with its young democracy will not pursue a peaceful foreign policy; among other things we are ready to cooperate. The Russian parliament is already very actively cooperating with the parliaments of modern democratic countries, effectively supporting peace initiatives.

I want to reaffirm again the commitments given by the Soviet Union. So here in parliament we have no differences in this regard.

**M. Woerner.** Mr. Chairman, we have one very strong, very powerful, common interest between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, more precisely a few common interests. I believe that we have a solid base for building relations with your country.

We are currently conducting both formal and private negotiations at the same time here. I am speaking with you in all sincerity and once again want to repeat, yes, we want to accomplish all