

## Testimony: True Parents' meet Mikhail Gorbachev on April 11, 1990 - Part 1

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*Father addresses the audience during the opening plenary session of the 11th World Media Conference in Moscow USSR on April 10, 1990.*

*The following is taken from Dr. Bo Hi Pak's testimony about the Moscow Rally – which took place thirty years ago this year. Dr. Pak spoke at Belvedere on April 22, 1990, just ten days after everything concluded. We will present this in two installments.*

I would like to read several excerpts from a newspaper article that illustrates how even non-members view Father's trip to the Soviet Union.

This article is a column written by Ms. Georgie Anne Geyer and originates in The Washington Times. Her column is distributed through the Universal Press Syndicate and appears in 250 newspapers around the United States. Ms. Geyer has attended many World Media Conferences and fact-finding tours. She attended the Moscow World Media Conference, and afterwards wrote an article entitled: "Most Unlikely Moscow Meeting."



*Father gives an interview to the Moscow media at the airport reception room. Mr. Albert Vlasov, chairman of the Novosti Press Agency, is seated next to True Parents*

She writes, "Of all the impossible events that have occurred in the Soviet Union in the last five years, probably none has been as unlikely as the happy meeting in recent days between Mikhail Gorbachev and

the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The Moscow News called Mr. Moon the "most brilliant anticommunist and the No. 1 enemy of the state" – and then added, please, that it was "time to reconcile."

For his part, Rev. Moon said that he loved the Soviet people and that now the "Soviet Union was going to play a major role in the plan of God to construct a world of peace." To crown the new era, Mr. Gorbachev on Wednesday hosted Mr. Moon in the bowels of the Kremlin. This was after Rev. Moon, the head of the Unification Church, had lectured the Soviet people on Adam and Eve. If this meeting did not cap the new era, one wonders what would."

Father is beginning a new dispensational era. So, horizontally speaking, historians will also see it as a new era. At the 11th World Media Conference, a full gamut of former heads of state surrounded Father – from Marxists of South Yemen and a former leftist president of Mexico to royalty and moderate and conservative leaders. There were fifty people seated at the head table, forty of them former heads of state.



*True Parents and 38 World Media Conference participants meet with President Gorbachev at the Kremlin*

### **God's message to the Kremlin**

Father's plenary address was given on April 10 and concerned the Principle of Creation, the Fall of Man, restoration, and most importantly, the vertical and horizontal True Parents. They got the whole message, lock, stock, and barrel.

Ms. Geyer continues, "The highest level Soviet officials present – atheists all – listened impassively. When Albert Vlasov, chairman of the Novosti Press Agency, spoke afterward, he simply said that, "the Rev. Moon has really crossed a long way to come to the Soviet Union, and not only miles."

The most important part of the article is, as Ms. Geyer put it, Father was bringing the message of God right into "the bowels of the Kremlin." That was Father's purpose and he did it without hesitation. I was the one sweating next to Father because his words were so strong. I looked around at this Russian face, that Russian face. I was worried they might stand up and walk out, which sometimes happens in the United Nations when an ambassador disagrees with someone. I was watching everyone carefully, but that didn't happen. Of course the Soviets don't know how to say Amen, so they clapped a lot.

Father can now show the world that he has, in a spiritual sense, completely conquered Soviet atheism. This is the true victory and it is this victory that will hasten the unification of North and South Korea. This next goal will only happen through True Parents.

Harvard professor and world-famous Sovietologist Richard Pipes attended the conference. Previously, when we had invited him to a conference, he had brusquely turned us down. This time, he came and listened attentively, particularly after Father's meeting with Gorbachev. He commented: "The man of the hour today is not George Bush or Mitterand or Kohl, and not even Walesa. The man of the hour is Mikhail Gorbachev." Mikhail Gorbachev is at the pinnacle of popularity in world opinion. Time magazine gave him the title of "Man of the Decade," when they normally only use the title, "Man of the Year." The time will come when Time magazine will say that Rev. Sun Myung Moon is "Man of the Century" and "Man of the Millennium."

### **Searching for God**

Gorbachev personally invited Father and Mother to meet with him. He first spoke about one and a half hours in the conference with True Parents and the other presidents. Afterwards, he cordially escorted Father into his own personal office to a private meeting for 30 minutes. This is totally extraordinary!

Father is respected by the Soviet Union for several reasons. Now that communism is crumbling, the anti-communist is a hero for the intellectuals of the Soviet Union. Because Father was an unflagging anti-communist his entire life, it follows that Father is the Number One hero of the Soviet Union. Second, he always stands up for God, wherever he goes and with whomever he meets, whether that person is a Soviet journalist or a Soviet politician.

On the day Father landed in Moscow, Mr. Albert Vlasov, the chairman of the Novosti Press Agency, which co-sponsored the World Media Conference and many other Novosti officials were at the airport. There are two VIP rooms, one for regular VIPs and the presidential VIP room, which is used only for President Gorbachev or people on the level of presidents. The presidential reception room was reserved for us. Mr. Vlasov and Ms. Natalia Yakovleva, the editor-in-chief of the North America Department of Novosti Press Agency, presented Father and Mother with flowers.

There was a national television interview in which Father was asked for a few words about the meaning of his coming to Moscow and how he felt, to which he graciously responded: "I am very happy to be here in Moscow." We then entered the VIP room, where they had prepared a toast. Mr. Vlasov lifted up his glass and said, "Rev. Moon, welcome to the Soviet Union."

Then Father responded, "Let me return the toast. I would like to toast to the great people of the Soviet Union and your great leader President Gorbachev." In Father's toast, the "great people of the Soviet Union" came first.



*Father and Mother graciously greet a conference participant in the receiving line*

## **A royal welcome**

There was a VIP car waiting for us, a Chaika. We had a BMW police escort. I thought the Soviet Union was treating Father very well. Later I asked about it and their response was, "Yes, this kind of escort is only used for the president." The sirens were on and the lights were flashing as we rode from the airport to the city. We traveled in the traffic lane usually reserved only for the president and special officials. There were stop lights, but our caravan never stopped from the airport to the hotel.

Father's hotel was the Oktoborskaya Hotel. It is the Central Committee's hotel reserved for the highest communist officials. There was no better hotel in which Father could be accommodated. Father was escorted to the 12th floor, where he could see the Kremlin towers and the Russian Orthodox Church buildings from his balcony.

Every time we traveled we had a police escort. The first policeman who arrived at the Oktoborskaya Hotel said to me, "Representing the entire police force of the Soviet Union, I want to salute Rev. Moon. Could you allow me to do so?" I invited this police officer, a very bulky man, to meet Father, explaining, "He would like to represent the Soviet police to you." He then saluted. Father smiled and shook his big hand.

At the April 9th reception there were participants from all over the world, including many former presidents and prime ministers, as well as the incumbent vice president of the Philippines and several incumbent prime ministers. There were two of the president's representatives standing in the receiving line, through which about 700 people came. Approximately 1,000 people attended the reception, each one receiving a name tag. The Soviets had never seen such beautiful name tags -- everyone was so proud to wear them.

During the reception Father and Mother shook hands with many Russian journalists. Mother was especially beautiful. Mother wore Korean clothes on three occasions: at the reception, on the visit to the Kremlin, and at the Little Angels' performance. As soon as one Soviet photographer saw Mother, he forgot everyone else. He confided that he had never seen such a photogenic woman in his entire life. Each of Mother's Korean costumes were photographed, so Mother became a oneperson Korean fashion show on Soviet television.

## **Teaching the Principle**

Before the opening session speech on April 10th, the conference participants found the special book we created, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Peacemaker and Unifier, in Russian and English, on their tables. This book is Father's life history and of its 225 pictures, the most important one of all is a beautiful grand finale picture of Father and Mother's happy faces. By the time they finished looking at all the pictures and reading about Father's life, everyone was ready to hear Father's message. At that time Father could have said anything and everyone would have said "Amen."

Mr. Yuri Ossipyan, an influential member of the Presidential Council, attended the conference and gave the first speech, greeting the participants on behalf of the government. Father was then introduced; everyone was so absolutely attentive that you could have heard a pin drop. Father taught the Principle for 45 minutes. Although this was a media conference, he was speaking about Adam and Eve. Logically, it didn't make sense. But Father is so well respected that everyone listened deeply. The spiritual atmosphere was changing and heightening every moment. Father's message was an immortal one: good for today, good for 100, even 1,000 years in the future. Father left a declaration in the Soviet Union that the Moscow rally is also a world rally. This message was translated into English, Spanish, Russian, Korean, Japanese and French.

The next day, April 11, was True Parents' thirtieth wedding anniversary. We had a humble but very heartwarming celebration with all of our members. Father and Mother were very happy, very energetic and very beautiful.

That same day, President Gorbachev invited Father and Mother to meet him at the Kremlin.