

True Parents Meet Then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, USSR

April 11, 1990



Organizers of the 11th World Media Conference, which took place in Moscow in April 1990, learned by late afternoon on the day of True Father's address to the conference, that President Gorbachev had given his approval for a meeting with True Father. Larry Moffitt, who helped organize the media gathering, noted that the "maximum victory" for the Moscow event "was defined early on as a cordial meeting between True Father and Gorbachev." In fact, expectations had risen to the point that a failure to secure such an invitation would have been interpreted as a providential setback. Thus, organizers breathed a collective sigh of relief when True Parents, along with twenty-eight former presidents or prime ministers and several assistants, entered the Kremlin at 4:30 p.m. on April 11, 1990, and were seated in a conference room.

There was an initial meeting of President Gorbachev with all present, which was followed by a private meeting between the president, True Parents, one ambassador and a couple of senior staff. During the 90-minute open meeting, President Gorbachev said that the media conference was "very important" and expressed satisfaction that it had been "very successful so far." True Father thanked him for the opportunity to come to Moscow, explained that all former heads of state at the table were supporting him, and urged him to consider the World Media Conference his "asset."

Dr. Bo Hi Pak, who attended the half-hour private meeting in President Gorbachev's personal office, reported that the president was "completely free, embracing and talkative." The Segye Ilbo newspaper reported that President Gorbachev "asked Rev. Moon to help either directly or indirectly in the development of the Soviet Union by using the multinational economic foundations and worldwide organizations of the Unification movement."