

Anatoly Chernyaev Diary

April 16, 1989

About Gorbachev's visit itself. The result can be seen in the brochure for Politizdat (on the visit to Great Britain) which I finished editing yesterday, filling in the spaces between the texts of M.S.' and Thatcher's speeches. The journalists who were supposed to deliver the reports did a shoddy job... And all their banalities and simply fabricated material, lies, were printed in our newspapers.

On the most important: the Madam was magnificent. For three hours I sat across from her in the room where the negotiations with M.S. were conducted. She was aiming to carry him away in conversation. He sensed that and was "playing" the role of a man "who creates an impression."

Publicly Thatcher was liberal with the highest praises and excellent appraisals. She did this confidently, defiant of her own establishment and of other Western leaders, and Bush. She was playing to public policy, to history, to herself. If M.S. succeeds in his plans, then she will be remembered for this.

Her "cunning" runs in the channel of New Thinking, which he proposed himself: Russia has no other option left. It has to become like everybody else. If this happens, then the October and Stalin syndromes will disappear from world politics. The world will truly be completely different.

I am convinced that she sincerely wishes the best for us. Her pride and ambition coincide with her feminine and human impulse. M.S. is playing careful. Mostly, he is afraid of our people. In the airplane on the way back he said: she does it that way, and we this way (i.e. with reserve)... He looked at me and said: Anatoly disagrees (present were Shevardnadze, Yakovlev, Kamentsev, Frolov and Raisa Maksimovna).

I said that of course I disagree. Firstly, it is unfair not to react to kindness. She is doing us good: she raised the plank of *perestroika* and your prestige so high that Kohl, Mitterrand, and even Bush urgently need to learn how to high-jump. She practically cancelled the wave of negativism that started to roll over our *perestroika*. You mentioned this wave yourself, maybe even too much.

Secondly, she is influencing public policy from our position, i.e. she is doing what you yourself would like to do through your New Thinking. Her position on Namibia is eloquent testimony to that. Nobody helps you to change the international situation so forthrightly. Why should you pretend that you do not appreciate it? Besides, she is a woman... and it is wrong to think of her as a man in a skirt. Her character, even her political manner is feminine. And she is an Englishwoman... If she opens herself so sincerely and is not reciprocated, the pride factor will kick in... and we will lose a great deal.