

# Gorbachev Urges Russia, U.S. to Resume Nuclear Talks

October 10, 2016



Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev **Alexander Zemlianichenko / AP**

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has urged Moscow and Washington to resume talks across the political agenda, particularly on the nuclear issue, [the RIA Novosti news agency reported Monday.](#)

Speaking in Reykjavik to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1986 Soviet-American summit, Gorbachev said that the world was about to cross "a dangerous line."

"We need to resume dialogue. Terminating talks was our biggest mistake," he told RIA Novosti.

“There has been a collapse of mutual trust  
[between Russia and the United States.]

I  
believe that we need  
to resume talks across the  
agenda, and on the nuclear issue  
above  
all,” he said.

“As long as nuclear weapons exist, there is a risk  
that they could be used — by  
accident,  
via a  
technical failure, or through evil will of man, madm  
en or terrorists,”  
Gorbachev said.

“A nuclear-free world  
is not a utopia, but an imperative.  
Yet it can be achieved only  
through the demilitarization of international relations.”

The Kremlin announced on Oct. 3 that it had decided to  
[suspend a nuclear disarmament  
treaty](#) with Washington,  
claiming that  
the United States’ “unfriendly actions” posed  
a “strategic threat to stability.”

The protocol,  
which only  
came into force in 2010,  
stipulates that  
each side must dispose  
of 34 metric tons of weapons-grade  
plutonium each year.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/10/10/russia-and-us-must-resume-nuclear-talks-gorbachev-urges-a55664>