

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 2018

CESSATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

On February 21, 2018, the Secretary of State, under orders from the President, released the following statement on the United States' relationship with the Soviet Union—

"No government is perfect, but it is democracy that allows the people to make such a determination for themselves. In the absence of democracy, tyranny remains. The United States has for its entire existence maintained an absolute policy against the will of the minority being forced through terror and oppression onto the majority of any nation, whether it be in the Americas, Europe, Africa, or elsewhere.

The once-democratic nation of Russia's decision to transform into a communist—and thus a veiled totalitarian—state is one that the United States cannot support, especially when such a conversion now poses the risk of being forcibly applied to the free peoples of the world, a world that must be kept free.

In the face of oppression, we are buoyed by our commitment to the liberal ideology; this ideology places the ideas of liberty and equality—concepts such as the freedom of the press, the commitment to democracy, and more—above the preferences of the State. It is an ideology to which America and, more broadly, the West has subscribed for years.

Because Russia, now the Soviet Union, opts for an anti-democratic society approach in government, and because that approach runs the risk of spilling into free societies across the world, the United States hereby ceases relations with this nation and will work to ensure that the spread of communism reaches no farther than the Russian border."

###