May 17, 1989
Notepad of Teimuraz Stepanov-Mamaladze, 17 May 1989

Citation:

Summary:
Teimuraz Stepanov-Mamaladze notebook, covering May 17 of USSR trip to China to normalize relations. Notes a speech by Gorbachev at China's National People's Congress, before moving to the call to cancel a planned press conference because there are "200 thousand [students] around us...This is a revolution." Some press conference is then held, and Gorbachev's comments are summarized. The notes conclude with Gorbachev's comments on the student protesters.

Credits:
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Original Language:
Russian

Contents:
- English Translation
Speech by M.S. [Gorbachev] at the NPC [National People’s Congress] at a meeting with representatives of the Chinese public.

Social kinship of the two great revolutions of our times. The future before us must correct the lessons [mistakes] of the past.

The rise of the ideological differences to the level of state confrontation.

New silk road [unclear].

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Conversation with E.A. [Shevardnadze]

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Talks with Deng [Xiaoping]

C[entral] C[ommittee] Secretary Yang Minfu, old interpreter. Tito. All that was between us was blown away by the wind.

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Cancel the press-conference. 200 thousand [students] around us.

[Evgenii] Primakov: This is a revolution.

People who lived though the Cultural Revolution say that they don’t remember anything like it.

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Press-conference

Conducted by G[ennadii] I. Gerasimov

Shakhnazarov, Iakovlev, Iu. D. Masliukov, Chazov, Troianovskii, Shakhnazarov [sic]

M.S. [Gorbachev]: We became very briefly acquainted with Beijing, its sights (not a word about the demonstrations). The key moment of the visit was the meeting and the talk with Deng Xiaoping. New stage of Sino-Soviet relations. Universal principle. Neither China nor USSR should reappraise their [one word unclear]. Both of our countries consider peace and development to be the most important principles of existence.

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The people of science and culture who came with us hold the same opinion.

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Exchanged opinions on the state of affairs in the [Soviet] Union.
Great China Wall [in English in the original]

Two meetings with the youth of China. As if there were no thirty years [of confrontation].

- Did you see the students? [Question to Gorbachev]

- I received a very warm letter from them. In a TV interview I thanked them and all who, during these days [end of sentence]. I value their position.

[this is followed by several questions from the media and some of Gorbachev's answers at the press conference]