

MALTA AND THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

George H. W. Bush

The 41st President of the USA

President George Bush visited Malta in early December of 1989. He travelled to Malta for the historical Summit with the Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Summit itself took place aboard the ship Maxim Gorky which was anchored in Marsaxlokk harbour in Malta. The meeting was held from the 2 to the 3 of December 1989 just a few weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

It was during the Malta Summit that the Cold War was declared over.

During this meeting the Soviet Premier Gorbachev said:

"I assured the President of the United States that I will never start a hot war against the USA."

President Bush replied:

"We can realise a lasting peace and transform the East-West relationship to one of enduring co-operation."

That is the future that Chairman Gorbachev and I began right here in Malta."



The meeting in Malta is regarded as one of the most important USA-USSR Summits since the end of WWII.

In a way, the Malta Summit ended the Yalta plan agreed by Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin.

The US Secretary of State James Baker and the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze were also present in Malta for the Summit.



EMBASSY OF MALTA
WASHINGTON D.C.