

substantive reasons), the proposal was not on Eisenhower's agenda when he left for Geneva. Rockefeller's staff could not find hotel space in Geneva, so he had them ensconced in Paris to await the call should it come. As the Summit proceeded, it became clear that Eisenhower's performance had not captured the public imagination and a dramatic proposal was called for if he was to do so.

It was in this atmosphere that Rockefeller was able, once again, to catch the President's ear with "Open Skies". Given the pressures of the moment, Eisenhower was less receptive to Dulles' objections than he had been in Washington. After consultations with his staff, and British Prime Minister Anthony Eden, he rose to make the following statement on Thursday July 21, 1955:

Gentlemen, since I have been working on this memorandum to present to this conference, I have been searching my heart and mind for something that I could say here that could convince everyone of the great sincerity of the United States in approaching this problem of disarmament.

I should address myself for a moment principally to the delegates from the Soviet Union, because our two great countries admittedly possess new and terrible weapons in quantities which do give rise in other parts of the world, or reciprocally, to the fears and dangers of surprise attack.

I propose, therefore, that we take a practical step, that we begin an arrangement, very quickly, as between ourselves -- immediately. These steps would include: