

May 19, 1999

Jeff Smith  
1161 SE Nehalem St., #2  
Portland OR  
97202-6700.

Dear Jeff,

I understand that someone has asked you if he might see a copy of the original signatures on the "Gorbachev letter." In fact, there never were any original signatures on the letter.

After Bill Vickrey and I had developed the letter, I sent a mailing to a number of economists inviting them to join Bill and me in signing it. A copy of that letter inviting participation is enclosed. I also have a list of 218 names and addresses that this letter was sent to, if that is of any interest.

Replies came back by letter, phone, fax and e-mail. For several years I had a file in which I kept the letters and notes of agreement to participate, but I am now unable to locate that file. By the time I was ready to go to Russia, there were 30 people who had agreed to participate. A copy from my computer of the letter with their names and affiliations that I prepared for the trip is enclosed. I actually prepared six letters, for the six addressees listed in the letter inviting participation.

While I was gathering signatures, I faxed a copy of the letter to Russia, where it was translated into Russian by Alexander Meyendorff. He also arranged for the letter to be published in a newspaper whose name translates as "Agricultural Life." A copy of the letter in Russian as published in "Agricultural Life" is enclosed.

When I was in Russia, I delivered the letters to individuals who agreed to see that they reached the addressees. I did not ever hear back for any of the addressees, but several year later I spoke with someone who said that he had been given access to Gorbachev's private papers and had seen the original letter there, with a notation to the effect of, "This look interesting. Perhaps we should follow up."

I will be happy to talk with the person who wants the verification, if he thinks there is any other information that I could usefully supply. If he wants to write to any of the people and ask if they really agreed, I will do what I can to supply current addresses.

Sincerely,



Nicolaus Tideman  
Professor of Economics