

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 17, 1989

Dear Ed:

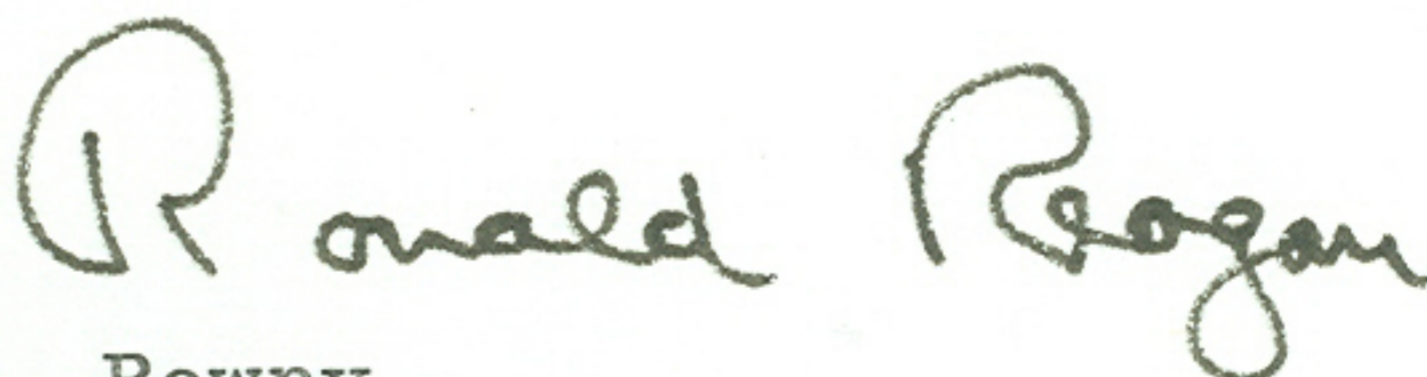
The end of my Administration brings a final, difficult task -- parting company with friends and colleagues who have been partners in a great undertaking. As Special Advisor to the President and the Secretary of State for Arms Control Matters, you have played an important part in some of the most prominent successes of the past eight years. I write to offer you my heartfelt thanks.

You know as well as anyone how excruciating arms control negotiations can be. The frustrations, the agonizing over details, and the endless, endless hours -- Solomon and Job in all their wisdom and patience would be sorely tested by the process. But, Ed, you've been on the frontlines for the duration. Your expertise, judgment, and selfless dedication have played a pivotal role in bringing about our record of achievement in arms reduction. And that record is demonstrated not only by the major agreement we signed with the Soviet Union -- the INF Treaty -- but also by the ones we didn't. For you've helped us make clear from the start how critical such issues as equitability and verifiability are. We've shown that we'll spare no effort to reach an accord, but that we believe no treaty is better than a bad treaty.

You've also proven your steady hand in pursuing and defending the policies of peace through strength that are key to the progress we've made. I am especially grateful for the leadership you've provided on a strategic defense. I'm confident when I say we leave the next Administration a strong foundation from which to pursue sharp reductions in strategic arms and the genuine and lasting peace that is our vision for all mankind.

Your contributions are no surprise, really. They are but the latest achievements in a lifelong journey of selfless and devoted service to our Nation. Again, thank you, and God bless you and your family always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first letter "R" is large and loops around the first part of the name. The last name "Reagan" is written in a similar cursive style.

The Honorable Edward L. Rowny
1105 South 23rd Road
Arlington, Virginia 22202