

## **Speech by Margaret Thatcher in Houston in 1991 at the American Petroleum Institute meeting.**

The USSR is a country that poses a serious threat to the Western world. I am not referring to the military threat is not actually there. Our countries are sufficiently well armed, including nuclear weapons.

I'm talking about the economic threat. With the planned economy and the particular combination of moral and material incentives,

The Soviet Union managed to achieve high economic indicators.

The percentage of growth in GNP is almost twice that in our country's. If Add to this the enormous natural resources available to the Union, with the sound management of the economy are real rather than the possibilities of expel the global market.

[...]

So we have always taken steps to weaken the Soviet Union's economy and create economic difficulties there, where the main role is played by the arms race.

An important place in our politics was the consideration of the weaknesses of the constitution of the USSR. Formally, it provided for the immediate withdrawal of the USSR by any republic which so wished, by decision of the Supreme Soviet and by simple majority.

True that the realization of this right was practically impossible due to the cementing role of the Communist Party and security organs. And yet, in this constitutional peculiarity, had potential opportunities for our policy.

Unfortunately and despite all our efforts for a long time the political situation in the USSR remained stable over a long period of time. We had a complicated situation, but soon we got a briefing on the early demise of the Soviet Soviet leader and the possibility of coming to power, with our help, of a person through which we could make our intentions in this area.

That was the assessment of my experts. Always conducive to the formation of a qualified group of experts on the Soviet Union and when the situation required it encouraged the emigration of Soviet specialists needed.

That person was Mikhail Gorbachev, whom our experts qualify as a reckless person, suggestible and very ambitious. He had good relations with most of the Soviet political elite, so he came to power, with our help, it was possible.

The activity of the Popular Front did not require large investments: duplicators comes to expenses and provide funding at officials Yet what was required significant funding support for prolonged strikes by miners. Great debates between you export raised the

question on the appointment of Boris Yeltsin as leader of the Popular Front with the prospect of his subsequent election to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, in counterbalance to the leadership of Gorbachev.

Most experts were pronounced against Yeltsin's candidacy because of the peculiarities of his character and his past.

However, there were corresponding contacts, agreements and the decision to force Yeltsin's candidacy, was definitely adopted. Although with great difficulty, Yeltsin was elected President of the Supreme Soviet of Russia and immediately adopted the declaration of sovereignty of Russia.

The question was who?, If the USSR was once built around Russia. Not understood.

That was certainly the beginning of the disintegration of the USSR. A Yeltsin lent decisive aid during the events of August 1991, when the dome ruling blocked the USSR Gorbachev and attempted to restore the integrity of the USSR. Yeltsin's supporters resisted, and this became a real power, significant, though not all, of the security organs

All republics of the Union, took the opportunity to declare their sovereignty, although some do so in a somewhat without discarding their stay within the Union. So there has already been dissolution of the Soviet Union, although, continues to exist. But I assure you, that in the coming months will receive the news of the legal formulation of the dissolution of the Soviet Union.