

Peter Nygard condolences of Mikhail Gorbachev

I'm personally saddened by the passing of one of the greatest men in the history of the world - Mikhail Gorbachev. I had the personal pleasure of meeting him more than once and I was honored that he called me his "good friend" in one of his attached autographs that he signed for me. The picture was from an honorary dinner to which I was invited by the former Prime Minister Mulroney at the Kremlin in 1993 at the height of Mikhail Gorbachev's political power as the leader of the Soviet Union.

Mikhail Gorbachev's personal friendship with me was one of three greatest world leaders in history to whom I was honored to have become my close personal friend, and the only autographs that I ever treasured - the other two being US President 41, George H.W. Bush and Vice-Mayor of Shanghai, China, Sha Lin. No one would have ever imagined a refugee boy who had crawled out of a converted coal bin without running water or electricity had become a personal friend of the leaders of the most powerful nations of the world : Soviet Union, USA, and China.



Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the Russian empire that had been built by a communist tyrant named Joseph Stalin through the WWII victories, but unlike USA Stalin never gave back the countries they had liberated and kept them for himself and made them a slave to Russia. Vladimir Putin is now dishonorably in the process of trying to restore what presumably Mikhail Gorbachev had relinquished by using war crime tactics. To show his disrespect for Mikal Gorbachev, Putin refuses to attend his funeral since Joseph Stalin is Putin's idol.

- Peter Nygard

AN UNFORGETTABLE KREMLIN DINNER

QUESTION:

What was the experience like dining at the Kremlin??

PETER NYGÅRD

I was with the Prime Minister of Canada on a Trade Mission to Russia & there was a formal dinner. The dining room table was twenty-five feet long. Mikhail Gorbachev had all of his key people there including the mayor of Moscow & his wife.

I was placed between the mayor on one side & his wife on my other side with an interpreter behind us.

I was offered a business deal as a potential partner to open up all of the retail stores for Russia. They had the power & had the franchise for it. They knew I was one of the largest retailers in Canada. So I was deliberately placed in that position at dinner.

They also had a deal for all of the hotels in Moscow city. They were already dividing up

the country before it broke up. The country was in such a mess at that time.

I had already been doing business with the Finns & the Finns had successful businesses in Moscow. So I consulted with them.

They said, "Peter stay away. What they'll do is wait until you make it successful & then kick you out. Then if you refuse to leave, they will kill you."

The guy who took a deal with them for the

hotels ended up dead. It was rumored that they told him to take off & he said over my dead body. He was killed along with twenty-five of his body guards on his way to his limousine one day.

If that's true, that would have been me for certain. If I had put five years in that business, & somebody was to tell me 'get out of here', I would have said, 'over my dead body', & that's exactly what would have happened. No way I would have left. The smart thing was in never taking the deal.



Former President of Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev and Mila Mulroney (Wife of Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney), Kremlin Soviet Union



Sha Lin Former Vice-Mayor of Shanghai



Former US President George H.W. Bush