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SPECIAL
REPORT:
An exclusive interview
with the leader of the
Soviet Union**

In his first meeting with Western journalists, an extraordinary, far-ranging two hours with TIME's editors, Mikhail Gorbachev shows himself well informed, urbane, witty, in total command and, above all, a man who knows his own mind. In what amounts to a major public statement, he offers his thoughts on

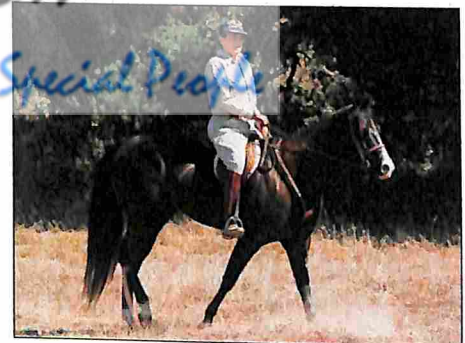


U.S.-Soviet relations ("continuing to deteriorate"), Star Wars ("very dangerous"), President Reagan ("We are prepared to do business with him"), domestic priorities ("make life better"), and his glad-handing manner ("You cannot work otherwise"). In an 18-page report, TIME not only presents Gorbachev's revealing, direct comments but also assesses the style and substance of his first six months in office, analyzes the significance of what he had to say, and reports on the war of words between the two superpowers as the Geneva summit approaches.

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- ▶ Ed Meese becomes a conservative crusader at the Justice Department.
- ▶ A suspect is arrested in the Night Stalker killings that have terrified California.



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Cover:
Photograph taken during TIME's interview by Rudi Frey

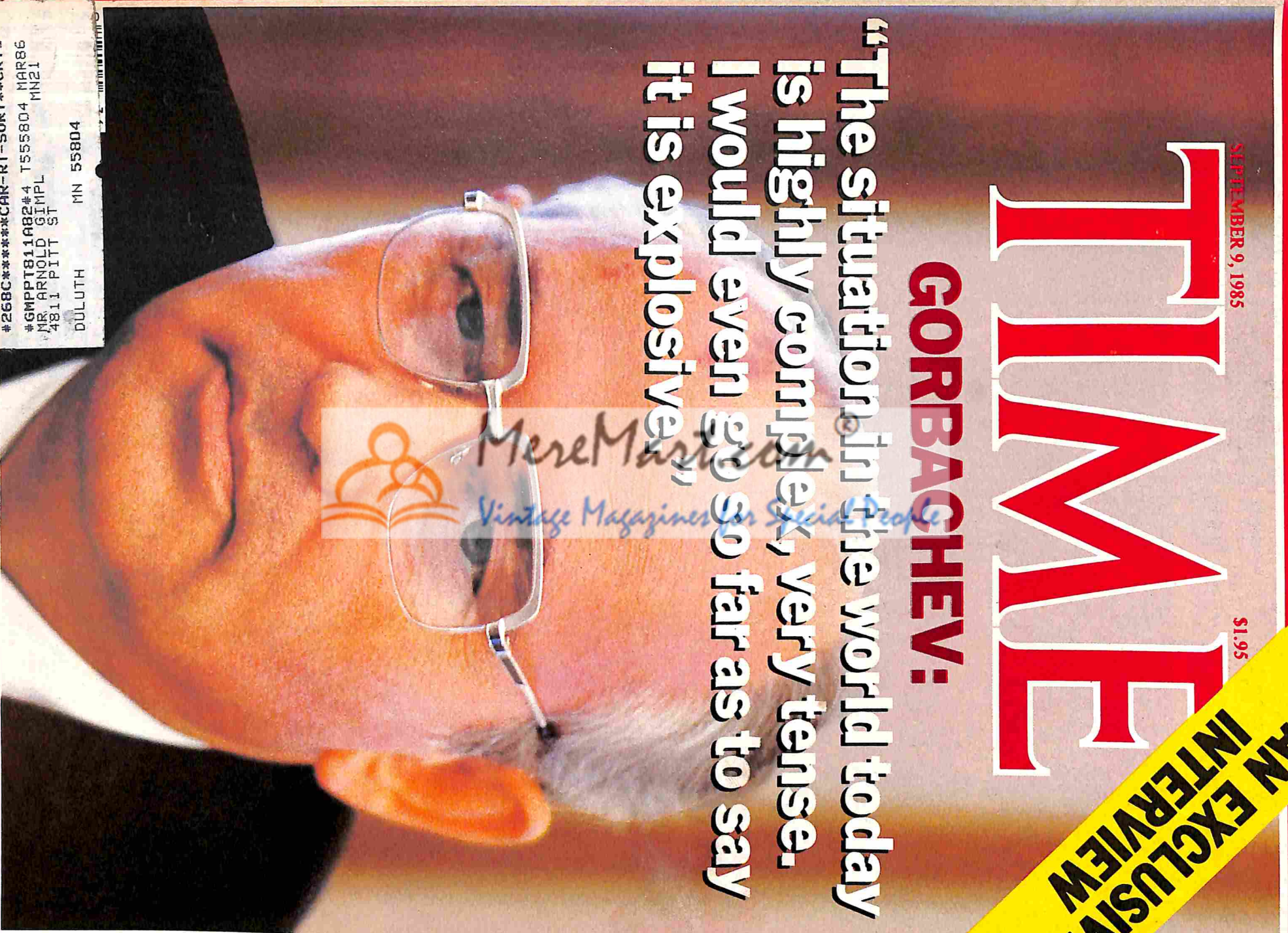
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TIME

GORBACHEV:

"The situation in the world today is highly complex, very tense. I would even go so far as to say it is explosive!"



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