

No 10 J/S

OO FCO (DESKBY 171700Z)

+ 8

PP UK DEL NATO

PP MOD UK

As
As / LAs

PP BONN

RR UK DEL VIENNA

IMMEDIATE

As / M B LAK

RR ANKARA

As / PUS

RR ATHENS

ADVANCE COPY
FILE

M.P.U. McB

RR BRUSSELS

RR COPENHAGEN

ms

Ulf DEE

RR LISBON

Ln

Ulf ACO

RR LUXEMBOURG

Prime Minister

2

RR OSLO

Paul

RC

DD BADIO
GR 500

(9.10.)

UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY 171700Z

FM WASHINGTON 171522Z OCT

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3213

INFORMATION PRIORITY UK DEL NATO, MODUK (FOR DS17 DS12 DUS(P)), BONN.

INFORMATION ROUTINE UK DEL VIENNA, ANKARA, ATHENS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, LISBON, LUXEMBOURG, OSLO, OTTAWA, PARIS, ROME, REYKJAVIK AND THE HAGUE.

THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES MODERNISATION.

1. TODAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT BREZHNEV HAS SENT PERSONAL MESSAGES TO A NUMBER OF NATO LEADERS, INCLUDING THE FRG, UK, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND DENMARK, RESTATING HIS OFFER TO REDUCE TROOPS, TANKS AND MISSILES (SIC) IF NATO ABANDONED MODERNISATION PLANS (UK DEL NATO TEL NO 220 REFERS). SEE M.I.F.T. (NOT TO ALL).

2. THE WASHINGTON POST ALSO REPORTS THAT LATER THIS WEEK DAVID AARON (DEPUTY TO BRZEZINSKI) ACCOMPANIED BY BARTHOLOMEW (STATE DEPARTMENT) AND MC GIFFERT (DEFENSE DEPARTMENT) WILL HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH "TOP OFFICIALS" IN WEST GERMANY, BRITAIN, ITALY, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND. THESE CONSULTATIONS WERE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE BREZHNEV SPEECH, AND WILL CONCENTRATE ON A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH: PROCEEDING WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES WHILE NEGOTIATING LIMITS WITH THE RUSSIANS ON SUCH FORCES. THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT "THE TARGET FIGURE OF 572 US MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES IS NOT FINAL, AND COULD BE REDUCED IF MOSCOW SHOWS WILLINGNESS TO ENTER NEW NEGOTIATIONS".

3. THE T.N.F. MODERNISATION ISSUE WAS PROMINENT DURING THE MARK-UP DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY ON SALT II IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. AFTER (ANTI-TREATY) HELMS ARGUED THAT THE SENATE SHOULD TAKE MORE TIME IN CONSIDERING THE ISSUES, AND WAS SUPPORTED BY GLENN, RANKING REPUBLICAN JAVITS URGED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY SINCE "THE WESTERN ALLIANCE IS IN GRAVE PERIL". IF THE SENATE HAD NOT ACTED ON SALT II BY THE TIME NATO MET IN DECEMBER TO CONSIDER T.N.F. MODERNISATION, THE NECESSARY DECISIONS MIGHT NOT BE TAKEN. "IF THEY MAKE A DECISION AGAINST US AT THAT TIME, YOU'LL BE MIGHTY SORRY THAT YOU DIDN'T RUSH" JAVITS ARGUED.

4. THIS BROUGHT A RESPONSE FROM MINORITY LEADER BAKER, THAT THE DESIRES OF ALLIED COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DETERMINE THE SENATE'S SCHEDULE. (PRO-TREATY) BIDEN REPLIED HEATEDLY THAT IT WAS NOT THE NEEDS OF THE ALLIES BUT "OUR NAKED SELF-INTEREST" THAT ARGUED FOR SPEEDY ACTION ON SALT. HE DEVELOPED THE THESIS, NOW GAINING GROUND IN WASHINGTON, THAT DEFEAT OF SALT COULD WELL CAUSE THE COLLAPSE OF THE DELICATELY BALANCED PLAN TO MODERNISE T.N.F., AND PERHAPS THE UNRAVELLING OF THE ALLIANCE, GIVEN THE ALLIES' DESIRE TO SALT APPROVED AS A SIGN THAT ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE. THIS ARGUMENT WAS DESCRIBED BY HELMS AS "POPPY-COCK".

HENDERSON

IMMEDIATE

NNNN