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TO FLASH PARIS

TELEGRAM NUMBER 5 OF 7 JANUARY

AND TO BONN

INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, ROME, OTTAWA, UKMIS
NEW YORK: ROUTINE OTHER NATO POSTS.

AFGHANISTAN AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

1. IN VIEW OF THE MOST RECENT EVENTS, INCLUDING TODAY'S MEETING OF THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT NATO, I HAVE DECIDED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE FRENCH AND GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS. PLEASE DELIVER IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TODAY.

TEXT BEGINS:

I AM SURE THAT YOU, LIKE ME, WILL HAVE BEEN GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE ON THIS SUBJECT. I ENTIRELY AGREE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF WESTERN REACTIONS IN THE REGION. THAT IS LARGELY WHY I AM LEAVING ON 9 JANUARY FOR A VISIT TO TURKEY, QIAN, SAUDI ARABIA, PAKISTAN AND PROBABLY INDIA. I HOPE THAT THIS TRIP WILL DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR THESE COUNTRIES AND ENABLE ME FULLY TO UNDERSTAND THEIR VIEWS ON THE SITUATION.

AT THE SAME TIME IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CONFINE OUR REACTIONS TO THE REGION. OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE WORRIED: THE CASE OF YUGOSLAVIA SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. INDEED, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES WILL ASK IS WHAT ACTIONS WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE GOING TO TAKE TOWARDS THE RUSSIANS. NON-ALIGNED CONCERN ON THIS POINT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE, FOR THE CHANCES THAT THIS UNPRECEDENTED SOVIET ACT OF AGGRESSION WILL BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE DEPEND SIGNIFICANTLY ON WHAT THE WEST CAN DO TO SHOW THE RUSSIANS NOW THAT AGGRESSION BRINGS REAL PENALTIES. I AM THEREFORE GLAD THAT THIS EAST-WEST ASPECT, AS WELL AS THE REGIONAL ONE, IS BEING DISCUSSED IN NATO. THE IMPACT ON THE SOVIET UNION OF THE WESTERN REACTIONS WOULD BE SADLY REDUCED IF WE DO NOT ACT IN CONCERT. IT WOULD ALSO BE VERY REGRETTABLE IF OUR ACTIONS WERE MUCH LONGER DELAYED. THE

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MOST EFFECTIVE RESPONSE WOULD BE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A FIRST LIST OF STEPS, WHICH EACH OF US COULD ANNOUNCE WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

COMMENCE SQUARE BRACKETS: FOR THE MESSAGE TO THE FRENCH ONLY
ENDS SQUARE BRACKETS: ONE IMPORTANT AREA WHERE BRITAIN AND FRANCE CAN ACT - TOGETHER WITH CANADA AND ITALY - IS THAT OF CREDITS FOR THE SOVIET UNION. COULD WE AGREE THIS WEEK THAT EXPORT CREDITS WILL IN FUTURE BE ON O E C D CONSENSUS TERMS? AND WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO CONSIDER THE IDEA OF JOINING THE U K, AND THE OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES CONCERNED, IN NOT REPLACING THE EXPIRED CREDIT AGREEMENTS, SO THAT EXPORT CREDIT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIET UNION ON THE NORMAL CASE BY CASE BASIS?

IT WOULD HELP ME BEFORE MY VISIT IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW HOW YOU SEE THINGS, BY MESSAGE OR TELEPHONE TOMORROW.
TEXT ENDS.

CARRINGTON

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