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Prime Minister

*To see all the
 report of a Brezhnev
 speech*

MAD 29/v

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UNCLASSIFIED

cc'd. middle East Situation Pb 3.

FM MOSCOW 281305Z MAY 80

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 365 OF 28TH MAY

FOR INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, BONN, PARIS, ROME, KABUL,
 CAIRO, TEL AVIV, ISLAMABAD, DELHI AND ADEN.

SOVIET POLICY ON AFGHANISTAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST

1. IN THE COURSE OF A SHORT SPEECH GIVEN YESTERDAY AT A DINNER FOR THE VISITING GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE PDRY PARTY, ALI NASER MOHAMMED, BREZHNEV INCLUDED PASSAGES ON AFGHANISTAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. THE SECTION ON AFGHANISTAN WAS COMPARATIVELY LENGTHY. WASHINGTON HAD USED AFGHANISTAN AS A PRETEXT TO JUSTIFY ITS OWN AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS. BUT NEITHER AFGHANISTAN NOR THOSE WHO WENT TO ITS ASSISTANCE HAD ATTACKED OR THREATENED ANYONE. SIMILARLY ETHIOPIA HAD NOT TROUBLED ANYONE BEFORE EXTERNAL FORCES BACKED BY THE WEST HAD DESCENDED UPON HER., AND ANGOLA HAD NOT

BY THE WEST HAD DESCENDED UPON HER... AND ANGOLA HAD NOT ATTACKED ANYONE BUT BEEN ATTACKED BY BANDS OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES AND MERCENARIES EQUIPPED BY NATO. THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT REMAINED DEAF TO THE AFGHAN REQUEST FOR HELP, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ACTIONS OF AFGHANISTAN'S ENEMIES " PRESENTED A THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF OUR SOUTHERN BORDER". THE REDUCTION OF SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED ABOVE ALL THE REMOVAL OF THE REASONS WHICH HAD MADE IT NECESSARY. "A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS QUITE POSSIBLE. ITS ESSENCE IS A GUARANTEED ENDING OF ARMED INCURSION INTO AFGHANISTAN BY THE FORCES OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION FROM THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES."

3. BREZHNEV DESCRIBED THE PROGRAMME PUT FORWARD BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AS "SOLID PROPOSALS" WHICH THE SOVIET UNION ACCEPTED AND SUPPORTED. THE FIRST MOVE WAS NOW UP TO AFGHANISTAN'S NEIGHBOURS, ESPECIALLY PAKISTAN. "THE QUESTION OF THE TIMESCALE FOR BEGINNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM AFGHAN TERRITORY AND OF FURTHER STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION COULD BE DECIDED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES OF THE ENDING AND NON-RESUMPTION OF ALL FORMS OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. IT WOULD ALSO, OF COURSE, BE DECIDED IN AGREEMENT WITH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT."

4. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, BREZHNEV ARGUED THAT THE CAMP DAVID POLICY HAD NOW CLEARLY REACHED AN IMPASSE AND THE THE US WAS PROCEEDING TO AN OPEN ASSERTION OF ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA AND THE SURROUNDING REGIONS OF ASIA AND AFRICA. THIS, AND ISRAEL'S AGGRESSION AGAINST THE LEBANON, HAD CREATED A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND CONTIGUOUS COUNTRIES. IT WAS TIME TO RETURN THE QUESTION OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT TO THE "ONLY CORRECT CHANNEL" WITH THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES INCLUDING THE PLO.

F C O PSE PASS TO WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, BONN, PARIS,

BROOK TURNER

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