

IMMEDIATE

PS
 PS/LPS
 PS/MR BLAKER
 PS/MR LUCE
 PS/MR HURD
 PS/PUS
 SIR A ACLAND
 SIR E YOUDE
 MR BULLARD
 MR FERGUSSON
 MR DONALD
 MR ~~P-H MOSELEY~~ D. GILLMORE
 MR AUST (LEGAL ADVISER)
 HD/FED
 HD/FUSD (2)
 HD/UND
 HD/SEAD
 HD/SAD (4)
 HD/EESD
 HD/NAD
 HD/DEF D
 HD/MED
 HD/NENAD
 HD/NEWS D
 RC

NO 10 DOWNING STREET

ASSESSMENTS STAFF
CABINET OFFICE

(LPS/WH)

UNCLASSIFIED

FM MOSCOW 061645Z JUL 81

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 423 OF 6 JULY

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS,
 PRIORITY ROME, PEKING, ISLAMABAD, DELHI, TEHERAN, KABUL,
 UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK, UKREP BRUSSELS, WARSAW.

MLDT

FOLLOWING FROM HEAD OF NEWS DEPARTMENT

SECRETARY OF STATE'S STATEMENT :

BEGINS

IN ALL MR GROMYKO AND I TALKED TOGETHER FOR 5 HOURS.

WE SPENT THE MORNING TALKING ABOUT AFGHANISTAN AND PERHAPS
 I COULD CONCENTRATE ON THAT. THE SOVIET UNION DIDN'T ACCEPT
 THE PROPOSAL WHICH I PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE HEADS OF
 GOVERNMENT OF THE TEN BUT NEITHER DID THEY SAY THAT THEY
 REJECTED IT. WHAT THEY DID WAS TO DESCRIBE IT AS UNREALISTIC
 IN ITS PRESENT FORM, I MUST SAY I FIND THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED
 FOR THIS UNCONVINCING. THEY SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS

IN ITS PRESENT FORM, I MUST SAY I FIND THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED FOR THIS UNCONVINCING. THEY SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS EXTERNAL INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN BUT DIDN'T INCLUDE THE SOVIET UNION AMONG THE INTERVENERS. I SAID THAT THE SOVIET INTERVENTION WAS THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM, BUT OUR PROPOSAL WAS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH EXTERNAL INTERVENTION FROM ANY SOURCE. THEY SAID THAT THE PRESENT AFGHAN REGIME MUST BE REPRESENTED IN STAGE ONE, BUT THAT IN POINT OF FACT IS THE PROBLEM WHICH HAS STOPPED NEGOTIATIONS GETTING OFF THE GROUND IN THE PAST, AND OUR PROPOSAL OVERCOMES IT. THEY DESCRIBE THE COMPOSITION OF THE CONFERENCE AS UNREALISTIC. I SAID IT WAS ONLY A SUGGESTION. BUT THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE REGION WHO ARE MOST CONCERNED AFTER ALL IN THE MATTER, SEEMED TO BE A REASONABLE COMPOSITION. BUT I ALSO SAID OF COURSE THAT THAT WASN'T IMUTABLE. NOT THE LAST WORD.

2. I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THERE ARE BIG DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. BUT I DON'T THINK EITHER MY COLLEAGUES IN EUROPE OR I EVER EXPECTED EARLY SOVIET ACCEPTANCE. WE WANTED TO GIVE THE SOVIET UNION SOMETHING TO REFLECT ON. AND I HOPE THAT WE HAVE, AND I HOPE THAT THEY WILL. CERTAINLY IN MY JUDGEMENT THE PROPOSAL PROVIDES THE BEST HOPE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WHICH WE WANT AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALSO SAID THAT THEY WANT. IT IS A SERIOUS PROPOSAL AND I HOPE THAT ON REFLECTION HERE IN MOSCOW ITS MERITS WILL BECOME CLEARER.

3. IT ISN'T A MATTER BETWEEN THE U.K. AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY THE TEN EUROPEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND HAS EVOKED MUCH WIDER SUPPORT AND INTEREST EVEN THAN THE TEN. WE YHALL NOW CONSIDER ACTIVELY WAYS IN WHICH THE PROPOSAL CAN BE DEVELOPED. IT WILL BE A NATURAL TALKING POINT IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. FOR EXAMPLE AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHEN I SHALL BE MEETING MR GROMYKO AGAIN. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FURTHER AND THAT'S WHY THE COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE. THAT IS TO SAY, TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ABOUT AFGHANISTAN. UNLESS WE MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS PROBLEM THE PROSPECT FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS, EAST WEST AND BRITAIN/SOVIET AREN'T GOOD. SO THE PROPOSAL REMAINS ON THE TABLE AND WE SHALL GO ON WITH IT, WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE TEN WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SEEK THE SUPPORT OF THE WIDER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHOSE FIRST REACTIONS HAVE GIVEN US A VERY GREAT DEAL OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

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WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF THEATRE NUCLEAR FORCES, AT SOME
LENGTH. WE DISCUSSED THE MADRID CONFERENCE, THE CDE PROPOSAL,
THE MIDDLE EAST, IRAN/IRAQ. I THINK THAT'S ABOUT ALL. WE
DIDN'T DISCUSS POLAND IN THE OPEN CONFERENCE, BUT I DISCUSSED
OVER LUNCH A NUMBER OF MATTERS WITH MR GROMYKO.

ENDS

KEEBLE

Handwritten mark

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