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TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 253 OF 15 MARCH
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON MODUK UKDEL NATO
INFO ROUTINE PARIS THE HAGUE BRUSSELS ROME MOSCOW

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GERMAN VIEWS ON INF

SUMMARY

1. THE GERMANS PLAN TO PRESS THE AMERICANS AT MEETINGS THIS WEEK AND NEXT FOR AN EARLY MOVE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT KOHL DOES NOT THINK THAT A MOVE WILL BE POSSIBLE BEFORE THE PRESENT ROUND ENDS. THE GERMANS PROBABLY INTEND TO DISCUSS VARIOUS IDEAS FOR SUCH A MOVE WITH THE AMERICANS, RATHER THAN MAKING A SPECIFIC SUGGESTION. THE EXISTING TIMETABLE FOR STATIONING WOULD NEED TO BE PRESERVED: SO, AT THIS STAGE, WOULD THE INCLUSION OF PERSHING.

DETAIL

2. FOLLOWING KOHL'S CALL IN HIS WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW ON 13 MARCH FOR A US MOVE IN THE INF NEGOTIATIONS, MALLABY WENT OVER THE GROUND YESTERDAY EVENING WITH TELTSCHIK, KOHL'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER.

3. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT KOHL DID NOT WANT THE US ADMINISTRATION TO FORM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFTER THEIR ELECTION VICTORY WERE NO LONGER SO INTERESTED IN VISIBLE US EFFORTS FOR SUCCESS IN GENEVA. THERE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST INF STATIONING IN THE FRG, STARTING AT EASTER. WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE DEFLECTED FROM STATIONING, THE SCALE OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY STATIONING WOULD BE FAR GREATER IF THE AMERICANS WERE NOT SEEN TO BE NEGOTIATING REALLY SERIOUSLY. HENCE KOHL'S REMARKS TO THE WASHINGTON POST, WHICH (AS THE FEDERAL SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT YESTERDAY) WERE FULLY IN LINE WITH THE VIEWS HE HAD PUT TO REAGAN IN MESSAGES AND TO BUSH PERSONALLY BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

4. TELTSCHIK SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXPECT THE RUSSIANS TO MAKE AN EARLY MOVE IN GENEVA. ALTHOUGH SOME FEDERAL OFFICIALS THOUGHT THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT SOON WALK OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, SAYING THAT THEY WOULD RETURN WHEN THE AMERICANS MADE A SERIOUS PROPOSAL, THE CHANCELLOR WAS INCLINED NOT TO EXPECT THIS. ALTHOUGH THE OUTCOME OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS HAD PROBABLY ENDED THE SOVIET HOPE OF STOPPING INF STATIONING BY MEANS OF PROPAGANDA, MOSCOW WOULD STILL HOPE THAT PUBLIC PRESSURE IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD INFLUENCE THE US NEGOTIATING POSITION. THUS THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT PUT THEMSELVES IN THE WRONG WITH PUBLIC OPINION BY WALKING OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN TEMPORARILY.

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5. TELTSCHIK CONTINUED THAT KOHL WANTED THE AMERICANS TO MAKE A MOVE IN GENEVA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN BEFORE THE CURRENT ROUND ENDS ON 28 MARCH, KOHL THOUGHT THIS WOULD PROVE UNREALISTIC. THERE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF A US MOVE AT THE SCG ON 18 MARCH AND AMONG MINISTERS DURING THE NPG NEXT WEEK. FEDERAL DEFENCE MINISTER WOERNER WOULD RAISE THE SUBJECT DURING HIS BILATERAL MEETING WITH WEINBERGER IN THE MARGINS OF THE NPG. A MOVE MIGHT BE DEvised WHICH WENT FURTHER THAN THE PRINCIPLES ALREADY STATED PUBLICLY BY REAGAN BUT STOPPED SHORT OF A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL INVOLVING ACTUAL NUMBERS OF MISSILES OR WARHEADS. IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT SUCH A MOVE SHOULD PRESERVE PERSHING AND MAINTAIN THE EXISTING TIMETABLE FOR STATIONING. TELTSCHIK IMPLIED THAT THE GERMANS WOULD NOT ADVOCATE ANY PARTICULAR PROPOSAL TO THE AMERICANS, BUT WOULD TRY TO MOVE THE LATTER TOWARDS MAKING A NEW PROPOSAL BY ENGAGING THEM IN DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE PACKAGES. HE ADDED THAT PERSHING MIGHT BE GIVEN UP LATER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IF THE RUSSIANS WERE PREPARED TO DESTROY A REALLY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF SS20S. IN THAT CASE, SOME OF THE CRUISE MISSILES AVAILABLE FOR STATIONING NEXT WINTER IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD NEED TO BE DIVERTED TO THE FRG, SO THAT STATIONING COULD BEGIN HERE AT THE SAME TIME AS ELSEWHERE.

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