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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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INFO MODUK (FOR PS/S OF S, DUS (P), AUS D STAFF), UKDEL NATO, BONN
PARIS, MOSCOW

THE DEFENCE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. MR HESELTINE HAS JUST COMPLETED A VERY SUCCESSFUL TWO-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON, PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO PUT ACROSS OUR POINT OF VIEW ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES TO SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE US ADMINISTRATION AND IN CONGRESS AND TO GAUGE IN RETURN THEIR CURRENT PRE-OCCUPATIONS.
2. THE TALKS WITH WEINBERGER WERE MARKED BY AN EXCELLENT PERSONAL RAPPORT. AMONG OTHER MATTERS, THEY COVERED THE WORK OF THE NATO HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON RATIONALISATION OF THE NUCLEAR STOCKPILE. PENTAGON OFFICIALS EMPHASISED AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROLS OVER THE LEAKAGE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE OF MILITARILY RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY. MR HESELTINE MADE CLEAR TO WEINBERGER AND THOSE HE MET ON THE HILL THAT IT WAS INEQUITABLE THAT THE UK SUBSIDIARIES ON US COMPANIES WERE TREATED LIKE UK COMPANIES SO FAR AS BIDDING FOR DEFENCE CONTRACTS WERE CONCERNED, WHEREAS THIS WAS NOT TRUE FOR US SUBSIDIARIES OF UK COMPANIES. IT WAS AGREED THAT OFFICIALS SHOULD PURSUE THIS MATTER. MR HESELTINE MADE THE POINT THAT, GIVEN THAT IT WAS NECESSARY AND INEVITABLE THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN HIGH TECHNOLOGY BASE, IT WAS IN THE US INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION SINCE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD OTHERWISE COLLABORATE WITHOUT THE US. THE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING EMPASISED THE NEED FOR NATO TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES TO REMAIN ON TOP OF THE SOVIET THREAT AND ON THE MINOR BUT VEXING QUESTION OF THE PAYMENT OF RENT BY THE US AIR FORCE FOR RAF MARRIED QUARTERS IN BRITAIN, MR HESELTINE AND MR WEINBERGER GAVE A POSITIVE STEER WHICH SHOULD ENABLE OFFICIALS TO SETTLE THE QUESTION.
3. THE MEETING WITH SHULTZ WAS DOMINATED BY DISCUSSION OF THE LEBANON (MY TELNO 2598), WHICH ALSO FEATURED LARGE IN THE MEETING WITH WEINBERGER. SHULTZ ACKNOWLEDGED ALL THE DIFFICULTIES THE US AND THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE FACED BUT MADE CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ARE CONVINCED THAT TO PULL OUT WOULD BRING CHAOS IN LEBANON A VERY DANGEROUS OUTCOME FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF WESTERN INTERESTS AND, PROBABLY, A FURTHER ISRAELI/SYRIAN CONFLICT. SHULTZ, WHOSE SOUL IS SCARRED BY HIS RECENT MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN MADRID (WHEN GROMYKO INFURIATED HIM BY ACCUSING THE US OF DELIBERATELY ENGINEERING A 'PROVOCATION' OVER THE KOREAN AIRLINER), WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MOVEMENT IN THE SOVIET POSITION IN INF, BUT DETERMINED TO PERSIST WITH SERIOUS US EFFORTS TO TRY FOR PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL.

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/ SHULTZ

SHULTZ, LIKE WEINBERGER, EXPRESSED THE GENUINE ADMIRATION FELT HERE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE NUCLEAR DEBATE IN BRITAIN AND THE FIRMNESS OF THE SUPPORT WE HAVE GIVEN THE US THROUGHOUT THE DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR THE ALLIANCE OF INF DEPLOYMENT.

4. ADELMAN DIRECTOR OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY) ALSO FELT THAT AN INF AGREEMENT WAS UNLIKELY BEFORE DEPLOYMENT TAKE PLACE, SINCE THE RUSSIANS SHOWED NO SIGNS OF MODIFYING THEIR DEMAND THAT THERE MUST BE NO WESTERN DEPLOYMENTS AND THEIR INSISTENCE ON COUNTING BRITISH AND FRENCH SYSTEMS. HE THOUGHT THEY WERE SHOWING A SERIOUS INTEREST IN START, ON WHICH THEIR CALCULATIONS NEXT YEAR WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER THEY THOUGHT IT IN THEIR INTERESTS TO DO A DEAL WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION.

5. AT A WELL ATTENDED MEETING OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (WITH SENATORS TOWER, NUNN, COHEN, BINGAMAN, AND WILSON PRESENT), MR HESELTINE MADE AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION OF OUR POLICIES ON DEFENCE AND ARMS CONTROL HIS REMARKS WERE EQUALLY WELL RECEIVED IN THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE - OF MARKEDLY LOWER CALIBRE THAN THE SENATE, BUT NO LESS IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS IN WHICH WE ARE INTERESTED.

6. MR HESELTINE'S SPEECH TO A VERY LARGE AUDIENCE OF WELL-INFORMED AND INFLUENTIAL WASHINGTONIANS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, WAS A TIMELY REMINDER OF THE CONTRIBUTION THE ALLIES ARE MAKING TO THE COMMON DEFENCE. IT AND A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE RECEIVED GOOD COVERAGE HERE, WITH THE PRESS EMPHASISING MR HESELTINE'S POINT THAT THE KOREAN AIRLINER INCIDENT SHOULD NOT DISTRACT THE WEST FROM THE PURSUIT OF BALANCED AND VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

7. ALTOGETHER A VALUABLE VISIT WHICH EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE AND REINFORCED THE CLOSENESS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. IT WILL HAVE ENHANCED OUR ALREADY HIGH REPUTATION HERE. THE POST-VISIT VIBES FROM THE PENTAGON HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVOURABLE. I AM GRATEFUL TO MR. HESELTINE FOR FINDING THE TIME FOR THIS HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS DEFENCE SECRETARY AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECOND. NEXT TIME I HOPE THAT IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON HE WILL VISIT MAJOR NATO AND AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS, SACLANT AND STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, FOR EXAMPLE, AND CARRY THE MESSAGE OF THE BRITISH DEFENCE EFFORT TO, SAY, THE MIDDLE WEST.

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