

GRS 250  
UNCLASSIFIED  
FM WASHINGTON 132130Z MAY 85  
TO ROUTINE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1548 OF 13 MAY  
INFO BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, MODUK (FOR DACU)

*Not very  
reassuring  
CDP.*

MY TELNO 1517: SALT II INTERIM RESTRAINTS.

1. AT HIS FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE IN LISBON ON 10 MAY, THE PRESIDENT WAS ASKED ABOUT THE OPINION EXPRESSED BY PERLE TO THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE THAT THE US SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE SALT II AGREEMENT AFTER ITS EXPIRY AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. HAVING DEFENDED PERLE'S RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS OPINIONS, THE PRESIDENT REPLIED:

QUOTE

WE HAVE TRIED ON WHAT SEEMED TO BE A VERBAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR SOME TIME THAT EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NOT RATIFIED THAT TREATY, IT HAD BEEN BEEN SIGNED BY THE NEGOTIATORS, THAT WE WOULD BOTH SEEK TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS. THERE'S CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE NOW THAT THAT HAS BEEN RATHER ONE-SIDED. AND IF IT HAS BEEN, THEN THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO CONTINUE.

BUT WHETHER WE DO OR NOT, THAT'S A DECISION TO BE MADE DOWN THE ROAD. ACTUALLY WE HAVE NOT COME TO A POINT IN WHICH WE IN ANY WAY IN OUR OWN BUILDUP ARE VIOLATING OR GOING BEYOND THE TERMS OF THAT TREATY. IT IS POSSIBLE IN REGARD TO ONE SYSTEM OF WEAPONS THAT WE MIGHT COME TO SUCH A POINT. AND WE'LL MAKE THAT DECISION THEN. AND IF WE DO WE'LL DO IT OPENLY AND WE WILL DO IT WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOVIET UNION.

UNQUOTE

WRIGHT

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