

Soviet Union

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TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 267 OF 22ND APRIL

FOR INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON AND UKDEL NATO
INFO ROUTINE EAST BERLIN, PRAGUE, SOFIA, BELGRADE, WARSAW,
BUDAPEST AND BUCHAREST.

MF

PONOMARIEV.

1. THE SPEECH GIVEN BY PONOMARIEV ON 21 APRIL IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN'S BIRTH CONTAINED A STRONGLY WORDED ATTACK ON THE US AND UK. THE PASSAGE OCCURRED AT AN EARLY STAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE SPEECH. AFTER QUOTING WESTERN WARTIME LEADERS ON THE DEBT DUE TO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR PONOMARIEV WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THESE SPEECHES SHOULD BE RECALLED BY ALL TODAY. THE PRESENT LEADERS OF THE US AND GREAT BRITAIN HAVE COMPLETELY CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION THE DEBT THAT WAS SPOKEN OF AT THAT TIME. THEY NOW BEAR MALICE AGAINST US AND DO NOT REFRAIN FROM ANY KIND OF BLASPHEMOUS DEMAGOGY. BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE CHARACTER OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE, THE ESSENCE OF OUR PARTY HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THOSE TIMES. NOW, AS THEN, THE SOVIET UNION IS STRUGGLING WITH THE FORCES OF AGRESSION AND DEFENDING THE CAUSE OF CIVILIZATION AND FREEDOM. AND THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD HAVE A RIGHT TO ASK THOSE GOOD PEOPLE RUNNING THE US AND BRITAIN: WHY ARE YOU UNDERTAKING THIS DECEPTION, ON WHAT BASIS ARE YOU WHIPPING UP AN ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN AND LEADING AFFAIRS TOWARDS A SHARPENING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION, TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DANGER OF WAR? THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE DEMAND: STOP THIS KIND OF POLICY, CONFIRM THE SOURCE OF DETENTE AND PUT A STOP TO THE ARMS RACE". THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE SPEECH CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON HECTORING ATTACKS ON THE US. THE FULL REPORT FOLLOWS BY BAG.

2. THIS ATTACK BY A SENIOR FIGURE MARKS A NEW DEVELOPEMENT IN CRITICISM OF THE UK. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN SINGLED OUT AS THE LEADING WESTERN EUROPEAN FOLLOWER OF AMERICAN POLICY BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, POST-AFGHANISTAN, THAT WE HAVE SHARED THE HONOURS SO UNEQUIVOCABLY.

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