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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 82 OF 20 JANUARY 1982

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON BONN UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING ATHENS, ANKARA, THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, OTTAWA, ROME, OSLO, COPENHAGEN, TOKYO, AND LISBON

COCOM HIGH LEVEL MEETING

SUMMARY

1. THE MEETING (PARIS, JANUARY 19/20) PROVED LESS DIFFICULT THAN EXPECTED. THE AMERICAN DELEGATION DID NOT PRESS THEIR PROPOSALS TO REVISE THE STRATEGIC CRITERIA AND TO EXTEND BLANKET ^{COVERAGE} MESSAGE TO A WIDE RANGE OF SOVIET INDUSTRIES INVOLVED IN DEFENCE. SATISFACTORY CONCLUSIONS ADOPTED WITH HELP OF EFFECTIVE FRENCH CHAIRMAN (PAYE). BRIEF STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY FRENCH MFA ON JANUARY 20 (SEE PARIS TELEGRAM NO 80 -NOT TO ALL). IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER COMMENT TO THE PRESS.

DETAIL

2. FIRST DAY BEGAN WITH SHORT INTRODUCTION BY BUCKLEY LEADING LARGE US DELEGATION. HE DID NOT GO OVER THE DETAILED US CASE, WHICH HAD BEEN REPEATED IN A LONG PAPER EMPHASIZING NINE DEFENCE PRIORITY INDUSTRIES CIRCULATED ON THE EVE OF THE MEETING. NOR DID HE REFER TO REVISED CRITERIA. BRIDGES (UK) SPOKE NEXT, INDICATING OUR STRONG AND CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR COCOM AND NEED TO COVER AREAS OF CONCERN SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ON THE TRIED CASE BY CASE BASIS. WE ALSO LOOKED FOR PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN COCOM'S WORK, WHICH WE SAW AS ESSENTIALLY LONG TERM AND NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO DETAILED CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO SHORT TERM VICISSITUDES IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THESE WOULD NECESSARILY AFFECT OUR BROADER POLICY TOWARDS THE COMMUNIST WORLD WITHIN WHICH FRAMEWORK COCOM OPERATED. WE ALSO SUPPORTED THE TIMELY US INITIATIVE FOR THE HLM. THIS LINE WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY THOSE WHO FOLLOWED. THERE WAS VIRTUAL UNANIMITY ON THE LONG TERM NATURE OF THE TASK AND ON THE NEED TO ACT ON THE AMERICAN CONCERNS BUT WITHIN THE EXISTING METHOD OF WORK. THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC SUPPORT TO CHANGES IN THE CRITERIA. FISCHER (FRG) AND OTHERS SPOKE OF THE NEED FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WHICH REAFFIRMED THE UNITY OF THE PARTNERS IN APPROACHING THE WORK AHEAD.

3. AFTERNOON SESSION WAS MAINLY DEVOTED TO US PRESENTATION WITH SLIDES SHOWING THE LARGE CONTINUING SOVIET INVESTMENT IN DEFENCE INDUSTRIES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THIS DRAWS ON WESTERN TECHNOLOGY. INTENTION WAS TO SHOW EXTENT TO WHICH OUR TECHNOLOGY

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LEAKED, AS NOT COVERED BY COCOM, AND WAS OBTAINED BY CLANDESTINE MEANS. THE CASE WAS QUITE EFFECTIVELY MADE ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT COVER ALL THE AREAS WHICH THE AMERICANS LISTED: EG GAS TURBINES AND COMMUNICATIONS SWITCHING.

4. ON SECOND DAY THE MORNING WAS SPENT IN A GENERAL DEBATE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL MEASURES, THE NEED FOR CLOSER HARMONIZATION OF THESE, AND IMPROVEMENTS TO COCOM MACHINERY. OUR PROPOSALS FOR SPEEDING UP THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS WAS GENERALLY WELCOMED, AND ELICITED US CONTRITION AT THE DELAYS IN THEIR SYSTEM.

5. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED AS A CONFIDENTIAL TEXT FOR GUIDANCE OF FUTURE WORK OF COCOM. THESE ARE SATISFACTORY AND MET ALL OUR POINTS. THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE REVISION OF STRATEGIC CRITERIA. WITH OUR SUPPORT THE US LIST OF DEFENCE PRIORITY INDUSTRIES WAS READ INTO THE TEXT AS SUBJECTS FOR FURTHER STUDY (WITH A VIEW TO INCLUSION IN THE COCOM LISTS), BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO ANY PARTICULAR ITEM. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT WORK ON HARMONIZING NATIONAL PROCEDURES SHOULD BE REMITTED TO AN EXISTING SUB-COMMITTEE. THE US PROPOSAL FOR A DEFENCE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS WIDELY OPPOSED BUT A COMPROMISE PUT FORWARD BY BRIDGES, THAT COCOM ITSELF MIGHT HOLD SESSIONS WITH DEFENCE EXPERTS PRESENT, WAS ADOPTED WITH CANADIAN SUPPORT. ANOTHER US PROPOSAL FOR A FURTHER HLM IN 1983 WAS OPPOSED FROM THE CHAIR AND NOT ACCEPTED.

6. TEXT OF SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS FOLLOW BY SAVINGRAM.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES.

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NEWS D
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PUSD
PS
PS/LPS

PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD TREGARNE
LORD BRIDGES
MR WRIGHT
MR BULLARD
MR EVANS
MR GILLMORE
MR GOODISON
MR HANNAY

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

[NOT ADVANCED]