

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON 282228Z JUL 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2582 OF 28 JULY
AND TO MODUK (PERSONAL FOR PS/S OF S)

MY TELNO 281445Z TO MODUK PERSONAL FOR S OF S FOR DEFENCE AND TO
F C O PERSONAL FOR PS/S OF S.

SIBERIAN PIPELINE: MR WEINBERGER'S LETTER

1. THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT COULD AFFECT HOW YOU WILL WANT TO HANDLE YOUR TALKS WITH MR SHULTZ. IT IS DISCOURAGING EVIDENCE OF HOW LITTLE THE EUROPEAN ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN HOISTED IN BY THE PENTAGON.
2. PENTAGON OFFICIALS TELL US THAT WEINBERGER HAS NOT WRITTEN TO OTHER NATO DEFENCE MINISTERS IN THIS SENSE. THE LETTER WAS THE WORK OF IKLE AND PERLE. WEINBERGER HIMSELF MADE NO MENTION OF IT WHEN I SAW HIM LAST NIGHT WHICH SUGGESTS THAT HE DID NOT HIMSELF SEE IT AS A PARTICULARLY NEW DEPARTURE.
3. THE WEINBERGER LETTER TREATS THE ISSUE AS ONE OF WESTERN SECURITY AND POINTS TO THE REAL DANGER THAT THE PUBLIC TRANSATLANTIC ROW COULD WEAKEN THE ALLIANCE. STRIKINGLY, IT BARELY REFERS TO THE POLISH CONDITION ON WHICH PRESIDENT REAGAN INSISTED IN HIS DECISION OF 18 JULY. RATHER IT REVERTS TO THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT EUROPEAN DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET ENERGY AND HARD CURRENCY WHICH WERE PUT BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AT THE OTTAWA SUMMIT LAST YEAR. LAMBSDORFF, IN TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST, EXPLAINS WHY THE EUROPEANS NEVERTHELESS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND THIS WILL CATCH A FAIR DEGREE OF SYMPATHY HERE WHERE PRESS COMMENT SO FAR HAS BEEN BROADLY CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THE WEINBERGER LETTER WHICH SETS OUT THE HARD LINE SUCCINCTLY, IS NOT CLASSIFIED AND MAY WELL LEAK BEFORE LONG.
4. YOU AND SCHMIDT, AND EVEN CHEYSSON, HAVE PUBLICLY UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THIS DISPUTE IN PROPORTION. THAT WOULD BE THE RIGHT SPIRIT IN WHICH TO TAKE UP AND DEAL WITH WEINBERGER'S ARGUMENTS IN A CONSIDERED REPLY. I DOUBT IF THE AMERICANS REALISTICALLY EXPECT EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO GO INTO REVERSE AT SUCH A LATE STAGE, AND AFTER LONG CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE ARGUMENTS. SO THE PROBLEM IS ONE OF DAMAGE LIMITATION: THE LAST THING WE WANT IS FOR THIS - AND OTHER - ECONOMIC ROWS TO SPILL OVER INTO NEXT YEAR'S DISCUSSION IN THE ALLIANCE OF MISSILE DEPLOYMENT AND OTHER TICKLISH MATTERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

/5.

CONFIDENTIAL

5. I AM SURE SHULTZ WILL WANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU HOW ALL THIS CAN QUIETLY AND EFFECTIVELY BE BROUGHT BACK UNDER CONTROL. I LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING ABOUT THE TACTICS WHEN YOU ARRIVE TOMORROW, INCLUDING WHAT YOU SAY TO THE PRESS ABOUT IT.

HENDERSON

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

POLAND SPECIAL

STANDARD

EESD
CSCE UNIT
NAD
SED
WED
UND
ECD (E)
ESID
TREN

ERD
SECURITY D
OLA
CAD
SAD
CONS D
CONS EM UNIT
CABINET OFFICE

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION

POLAND SPECIAL

2
CONFIDENTIAL