

CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 550

CONFIDENTIAL

FM WASHINGTON

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1889 OF 15 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW UKDEL NATO

ROUTINE OTHER NATO POSTS UKDIS GENEVA UKMIS NEW YORK UKDEL VIENNA

UKDEL STOCKHOLM MGDUK



MY TELNGS 1874-6: REAGAN ON SUMMITS  
SUMMARY

1. THE PRESIDENT'S PREPARED STATEMENT AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT BROUGHT OUT HIS VIEW OF THE LONDON SUMMIT AS A CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. BUT SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING, AND PRESS REPORTS, CONCENTRATE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A US/SOVIET SUMMIT. THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AND HANDLING OF THE VARIOUS TOPICS WAS DECIDELY PRE-ELECTORAL.

## LONDON SUMMIT

2. THE PRESIDENT SUMMED UP THE MESSAGE OF THE LONDON SUMMIT AS BEING THAT THE SEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED DEMOCRACIES AGREED THAT THE ECONOMIC POLICIES BEING PURSUED SINCE 1981 WERE WORKING: QUOTE WHILE WE CONTINUE TO FACE PRESSING CHALLENGES, WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK UNQUOTE. HE DID NOT REFER TO DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET DEFICIT/INTEREST RATES, OR OF INTERNATIONAL DEBT OR TRADE ISSUES.

3. THE LONDON SUMMIT ISSUES ARE NO LONGER FRONT PAGE NEWS HERE. ALTHOUGH LAST NIGHT'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THE FIRST AFTER THE SUMMIT, NOT A SINGLE QUESTION ON THEM WAS RAISED. THIS OF COURSE SUITS THE PRESIDENT. THE SATURATION COVERAGE OF THE ACTUAL EVENT ON TELEVISION HAS BEEN HARDLY TARNISHED BY THE FEW CARPING COMMENTS (FEWER IT APPEARS THAN IN OTHER CAPITALS) WHICH HAVE EMERGED IN THE PRESS. I KNOW FROM WHITE HOUSE, (DEWER) STATE (SEITZ) AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR SO MANAGING THE SUMMIT AS TO AVOID AN EXTENDED 6:1 CONFRONTATION ON THE DEFICIT ISSUE. THE WHITE HOUSE REGARD THE LONDON VISIT AS AN ELECTORAL PLUS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

## US/SOVIET SUMMIT?

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE FOR US/SOVIET RELATIONS OF LAST NIGHT'S HINTS ABOUT A POSSIBLE SUMMIT MEETING WITH CHERNENKO IS NOT YET CLEAR. WE SHALL BE EXPLORING (IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR TEL NO 1105) THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS GENUINELY SHIFTING ITS POSITION. BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS SHOULD BE SEEN LARGELY IN THE US POLITICAL/ELECTORAL CONTEXT, AND THAT THEIR AMBIGUITY WAS DELIBERATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

/ 5. THE



RESTRICTED

5. THE PRESIDENT HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS QUOTE A PEACE CANDIDATE UNQUOTE, WILLING AND ABLE TO DO BUSINESS WITH MOSCOW AS SOON AS THE RUSSIANS ARE WILLING TO REOPEN THE DIALOGUE. HIS POSITION RISKED BEING OUTFLANKED DOMESTICALLY BY CHERNENKO'S CALL FOR EARLY TALKS ON SPACE ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, BY ZAMYATIN'S REMARKS YESTERDAY, AND - PROBABLY MOST SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE WHITE HOUSE'S VIEW - BY THE PROPOSALS MADE EARLIER THIS WEEK BY PROMINENT REPUBLICAN SENATORS BAKER AND PERCY THAT HE SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY SUMMIT WITH CHERNENKO, AND SHOULD ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL PATTERN OF SUCH SUMMITS. (THIS, IN TURN, IS A NIXON IDEA.) ALL THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS ARE ALREADY PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF SEEKING REGULAR SUMMIT MEETINGS: THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE UNTIL NOW DEBUNKED THE IDEA, BUT ITS ESPOUSAL WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY, AS THE CAMPAIGN HOTS UP, MUST HAVE CAUSED THE PRESIDENT CONCERN.

6. STRICTLY SPEAKING, NOTHING SAID LAST NIGHT ABOUT THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS A SUMMIT WAS NEW: AND THE PRESIDENT AVOIDED ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT POSSIBLE TIMING. WHAT WAS NEW WAS HIS TONE, THE CARE WITH WHICH HE PUT HIMSELF IN A POSITION TO AGREE TO A SUMMIT WITHOUT POSING ANY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, AND THE FACT THAT HE DID NOT SIMPLY ARGUE THAT IT TAKES TWO TO NEGOTIATE.

WRIGHT

STANDARD (PALACE)

NAD  
SOVIET D

( Repetition to REYKJAVIK  
referred for departmental decision,  
repeated as requested to other posts. )

2  
RESTRICTED