

GRS 450

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FM MOSCOW

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 568

OF 121430Z MAY 86

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO

US/SOVIET HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

1. US AMBASSADOR, HARTMAN, WHO LEFT FOR CONSULTATIONS AND A MONTH'S LEAVE ON 10 MAY CALLED ON SHEVARDNADZE ON 8 MAY AT HIS OWN REQUEST TO REVIEW BILATERAL RELATIONS AND FORTHCOMING CONTACTS.

2. THE CALL ONLY MATERIALISED AT THE LAST MINUTE AND TOOK PLACE AT ABOUT 6 PM. HARTMAN HAD ALSO ASKED TO SEE DOBRYNIN, PARTLY FOR A SIMILAR REVIEW OF RELATIONS AND PARTLY TO TEST ACCESS TO DOBRYNIN IN HIS NEW ROLE AND TO EXPLORE DOBRYNIN'S FOREIGN POLICY MAKING FUNCTIONS. DOBRYNIN'S REPLY HAD BEEN TO SUGGEST TETE A TETE DINNER WITH HARTMAN PLUS WIVES. THIS TOOK PLACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CALL ON SHEVARDNADZE BUT THE US CHARGE WAS UNABLE TO BRIEF US ON THE OUTCOME AS HARTMAN HAD NOT DIVULGED MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE THAN TO SAY THAT DOBRYNIN HIMSELF WAS NOT YET COMPLETELY CLEAR AS TO HOW HIS ROLE WOULD EVOLVE.

3. HARTMAN'S CALL ON SHEVARDNADZE HAD COVERED CHERNOBYL AND THE BILATERAL DIALOGUE. ON CHERNOBYL HARTMAN HAD REPEATED US EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND OFFERS OF HELP. HE HAD STRESSED THAT SOVIET ASSERTIONS THAT THE WEST AND PARTICULARLY THE US, WERE ORCHESTRATING A CAMPAIGN TO BLACKEN THE SOVIET UNION OVER CHERNOBYL WERE NONSENSE. IF SOVIET ADVISERS WERE MAKING SUCH ASSERTIONS TO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP THIS WAS DAMAGING. ADVISERS SHOULD OFFER A MORE REALISTIC AND ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION OR BE REPLACED. SHEVARDNADZE HAD REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY ON CHERNOBYL AS THE SITUATION HAD BEEN CONFUSED AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAD NOT IMMEDIATELY ASSESSED THE VERY SERIOUS POTENTIAL OF THE ACCIDENT.

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4. ON THE US/SOVIET EXCHANGES SHEVARDNADZE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION FAVOURED DIALOGUE BUT THAT CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT YET RIGHT FOR A MEETING BETWEEN HIMSELF AND SHULTZ. MORE TIME HAD TO PASS BUT THIS MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE 'AT SOME TIME'. NO SPECIFIC LINK WAS MADE BETWEEN DELAY IN FIXING A SHEVARDNADZE/SHULTZ MEETING AND THE US ATTACK ON LIBYA, BUT THERE WAS A CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT THIS REMAINED THE REASON. IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT IN THE DISCUSSION SHEVARDNADZE HAD SAID THAT THE SOVIET VIEW WAS THAT EVEN IF THE AMERICANS DID HAVE PROOF OF LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM IT STILL WOULD NOT HAVE JUSTIFIED THE ATTACK.

CARTLEDGE

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS
LIMITED

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

SOVIET D
DEFENCE D
R D
PLANNING STAFF
EED
NAD
WED
ACDD
CRD
NEWS DEPT.
INFO DEPT.
FED
NED
PUSD
PROTOCOL DEPT.

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RENTON
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR FERGUSSON
SIR W HARDING
MR RATFORD
MR DAUNT
MR DAVID THOMAS
MR LONG

CHIEF CLERK
MR BRAITHWAITE
MR BARRINGTON
MR WINCHESTER

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