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GORBACHEV MEETING WITH HAMMER AND GALE ON 15 MAY

SUMMARY

1. PRAVDA REPORTED ON 16 MAY THAT GORBACHEV, ACCOMPANIED BY DOBRYNIN, MET ARMAND HAMMER AND DR GALE ON 15 MAY. GORBACHEV EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THEIR HELP FOLLOWING THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT BUT ACCUSED OFFICIAL WASHINGTON OF EXPLOITING THE ACCIDENT TO DISCREDIT THE SOVIET UNION. WHEN HAMMER RAISED THE SUMMIT, GORBACHEV SAID THAT IT NEEDED TO PRODUCE A PRACTICAL RESULT FOR WHICH A CORRESPONDING IMPROVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE WAS REQUIRED. BUT THE ATMOSPHERE HAD WORSENEDED FOLLOWING WASHINGTON'S ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN OVER CHERNOBYL.

DETAIL

2. AFTER EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR HAMMER AND GALE'S 'NOBLE ACTION' - AN EXAMPLE OF HOW US/SOVIET RELATIONS SHOULD BE BUILT - GORBACHEV DESCRIBED THE BEHAVIOUR OF 'OFFICIAL WASHINGTON' AS 'A DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT'. HE REFERRED TO SPECULATION ABOUT THE ACCIDENT AND UNFORGIVEABLE ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT THE INCIDENT TO DISCREDIT THE WHOLE POLICY OF THE SOVIET UNION AND SOW DISTRUST TOWARDS ITS PEACE INITIATIVES. HE HOPED THAT PEOPLE WOULD DRAW THE CONCLUSION FROM THE TRAGEDY THAT IT WAS NECESSARY ABOVE ALL TO INCREASE EFFORTS AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND ENSURE RELIABLE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

3. GORBACHEV SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE ACCIDENT HAD BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND THAT PEOPLE WERE WORKING HEROICALLY. 'THE ENTIRE POTENTIAL OF SOVIET SCIENCE' WAS ENGAGED TO ELIMINATE THE AFTERMATH. THE PRIORITY WAS TO HELP PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM THE ACCIDENT AND FOR THE SOVIET STATE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT AND RESTORE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MAKE UP FOR THE DAMAGE SUFFERED. DR GALE PRAISED THE WORK OF HIS SOVIET COLLEAGUES AND EMPHASISED THAT THE WORLD SHOULD REALISE THE HELPLESSNESS OF MEDICINE IF NUCLEAR WAR WERE TO BREAK OUT.

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4. ON THE US/SOVIET SUMMIT (RAISED BY HAMMER) GORBACHEV CONFIRMED HIS "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO A NEW MEETING" REPEATING THAT TWO SIMPLE THINGS WERE NECESSARY: A READINESS FOR IT TO BEAR TANGIBLE AND PARCTICAL RESULTS "IF ONLY IN ONE OR TWO MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE WHOLE WORLD", AND A "CORRESPONDING POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE". THE MEETING COULD NOT BE HELD ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN SCENARIO, NOR ACCORDING TO A SOVIET ONE. A COMMON PLATFORM ORIENTATED TOWARDS A CONCRETE RESULT MUST BE SOUGHT. AS FOR THE ATMOSPHERE THIS HAD WORSENEED FURTHER AS A RESULT OF WASHINGTON'S MALICIOUS ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN OVER CHERNOBYL.

5. THE HAMMER/GALE PRESS CONFERENE IS ALSO REPORTED, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE GALE'S REFERENCE TO THE INEVITABILITY OF FURTHER DEATHS.

CARTLEDGE

SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENT
LIMITED

NED
SOVIET D
WED
EED
MAED
CONS D
NEWS D
INFO D
PUSD
ECD(E)
SED

PS
PS/MR RENTON
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/MRS CHALKER
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR DAUNT
MR RATFORD
MR BARRINGTON
MR SLATER
MR RENWICK

COPIES TO:

PS/NO 10 DOWNING STREET
MR RICKSON } CABINET OFFICE
MR DONNELLY }
MR B PONSFORD } DOE, ROMNEY HOUSE
MR F FEATES }
MR D MORPHET } D/ENERGY, AE DIVISION.
MR B HAMPTON }
MR M HARRIS } DHSS, HEALTH SERVICES DIV.,
MR RUBERY } HANNIBAL HOUSE.
MR E RIDER } HSE N11, THAMES HSE.STH.
ME S HARBISON }
MR S SEYMOUR, OT3/5C, DTI (VICTORIA ST,)
MR G MEEKINGS } MAFF
MR R HATHAWAY }
MR D LEVEY UKAEA
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