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INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO

US/SOVIET RELATIONS: PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MESSAGE TO GORBACHEV.

SUMMARY

1. IN A LARGELY ATMOSPHERIC LETTER TO GORBACHEV, PRESIDENT REAGAN RENEWS HIS CALL FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS ANOTHER SUMMIT AND SUGGESTS THAT SHULTZ AND SHEVARDNADZE SHOULD MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS IN EUROPE IF THIS WOULD SUIT SHEVARDNADZE BETTER THAN WASHINGTON.

DETAIL

2. THE US CHARGE (PLEASE PROTECT) HAS GIVEN MY FRENCH AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES, AND ME, A SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LATEST LETTER TO GORBACHEV WHICH WAS DELIVERED IN MOSCOW ON 24 MAY. (THIS IS THE LETTER REFERRED TO BY GORBACHEV DURING HIS MEETING WITH LORD WHITELAW ON 26 MAY - MY TELNO 648).

3. THE STATED PURPOSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WAS TO CONVEY HIS PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF US/SOVIET RELATIONS. AFTER EXPRESSING HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY IN WHICH THE SOVIET PEOPLE HAD CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IN THE CHERNOBYL EPISODE AND OFFERING HIS CONDOLENCES TO THOSE WHO HAD SUFFERED FROM IT, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE WELCOMED GORBACHEV'S PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO DRAW A LINE UNDER THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH HAD ARISEN FOLLOWING THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT: HE REGRETTED SOVIET MISINTERPRETATION OF US MOTIVES IN COMMENTING ON THE ACCIDENT BUT ALLOWED THAT THIS WAS ALL TOO CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PRESENT PHASE OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

4. PRESIDENT REAGAN RECALLED THE US PROPOSAL FOR AN EARLY SECOND SUMMIT, WHICH HAD BEEN IN KEEPING WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT GENEVA TO ACCELERATE THE US/SOVIET DIALOGUE. IN THE ABSENCE OF A DIRECT SOVIET RESPONSE HE HAD TRIED TO CONVEY VIA DOBRYNIN, DURING THE LATTER'S FAREWELL VISIT, HIS VIEWS ON STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTIONS, INF AND THE LIMITATION OF FIRST STRIKE CAPABILITIES. HE HAD OFFERED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EXPERTS ON NUCLEAR TESTING AND VERIFICATION. HE REGRETTED THAT SIX MONTHS HAD EFFECTIVELY BEEN LOST IN THE ABSENCE OF A POSITIVE SOVIET REACTION. HE AGREED THAT IT

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WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE NEXT SUMMIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AN APPROPRIATE ATMOSPHERE: THE ATMOSPHERE COULD BE AFFECTED FOR GOOD OR ILL BY PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE TWO LEADERS: IN HIS, HE WOULD REAFFIRM HIS COMMITMENT TO MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS.

5. PRESIDENT REAGAN CONCLUDED BY PROPOSING THAT SECRETARY SHULTZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE SHOULD NOW MEET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: AND THAT IF IT SUITED SHEVARDNADZE BETTER TO MEET SHULTZ IN EUROPE RATHER THAN IN WASHINGTON, A EUROPEAN VENUE - THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED HELSINKI - WOULD BE ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES.

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