

# CONFIDENTIAL

GRS 250

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FM WASHINGTON

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 1672

OF 242200Z JUNE 86

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW

INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO, UKDIS GENEVA, UKMIS VIENNA

INFO ROUTINE UKDEL STOCKHOLM, BONN, PARIS

US/SOVIET RELATIONS

SUMMARY

1. A FURTHER POSITIVE GORBACHEV MESSAGE, APPARENTLY NO PROGRESS ON SUMMIT DATES. A REAGAN PRESS INTERVIEW MAINTAINS THE GLASSBORO CONCILIATORY LINE.

DETAIL

2. THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, DUBININ, PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT REAGAN ON 23 JUNE, HANDED OVER A MESSAGE FROM GORBACHEV IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING, WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE DESCRIBED AS QUOTE CORDIAL AND BUSINESS-LIKE UNQUOTE.

3. STATE TELL US IN CONFIDENCE THAT GORBACHEV'S MESSAGE CONTAINS NO SURPRISES. IT APPARENTLY REVIEWS SOVIET POLICIES IN FAMILIAR TERMS AND REAFFIRMS GORBACHEV'S INTEREST IN MAKING PROGRESS IN US/SOVIET RELATIONS AND IN HOLDING A SUMMIT. IT HINTS THAT THE TWO SIDES SHOULD PRESS AHEAD WITH WORK IN EXISTING FRAMEWORK, BUT DOES NOT PICK UP PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SUGGESTION OF A SHULTZ/SHEVARDNADZE MEETING IN EUROPE BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK, OR PROPOSE A DATE FOR A SUMMIT.

4. EARLIER IN THE DAY, PRESIDENT REAGAN COVERED US/SOVIET RELATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE QUOTE LOS ANGELES TIMES UNQUOTE. MIFT CONTAINS KEY EXCERPTS: FULL TEXT FOLLOWS BY BAG. THE PRESIDENT'S MAIN AIM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO MAINTAIN THE MORE POSITIVE TONE SET IN HIS GLASSBORO SPEECH, AND TO AVOID BEING PINNED DOWN ON THE SALT CONSTRAINTS ISSUE OR ON THE SPECIFICS OF THE LATEST SOVIET PROPOSALS AT

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GENEVA. THE MOST INTERESTING FEATURE IS IMPLICIT WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE CONSTRAINTS ON POST-RESEARCH ASPECTS OF SDI IN RETURN FOR REDUCTIONS IN OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS. ALTHOUGH THE INTERVIEW ALSO CONTAINS STANDARD VISIONARY LANGUAGE ABOUT SDI, THESE COMMENTS ARE A BIG ADVANCE ON PREVIOUS PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS THAT SDI COULD NEVER BE A BARGAINING CHIP.

5. SEE MIFT.

WRIGHT

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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