

GRS 573

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FM BONN

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 358

OF 141815Z OCTOBER 86

INFO IMMEDIATE MOD UK

INFO PRIORITY PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, WASHINGTON

REYKJAVIK: INITIAL GERMAN REACTIONS

1. AFTER AN INITIALLY DEPRESSED REACTION IN BONN, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN AT PAINS TO STRESS THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF REYKJAVIK: 'THE DOOR IS NOT CLOSED'.

DETAIL

2. ON 13 OCTOBER FEDERAL SPOKESMAN OST SAID REYKJAVIK HAD TAKEN NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMS CONTROL A LONG WAY FORWARD, PARTICULARLY ON INF AND TEXT BAN. BOTH SIDES SHOULD NOW BUILD ON THE REYKJAVIK RESULTS, AND REAGAN AND GORBACHEV SHOULD MEET AGAIN TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES. SCHAUEBLE, MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, REFUSED, IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY, TO ACCEPT THE WORD 'SETBACK'. THE WAY FORWARD NOW WAS IN GENEVA. SCHAUEBLE CRITICISED GORBACHEV'S MOVE ON SDI LINKAGE AS AN UNREASONABLE TACTICAL MANOEUVRE DESIGNED TO HOLD UP PROGRESS. HE SAID THE US SIDE HAD SHOWN GREAT FLEXIBILITY IN ALL AREAS.

3. RUTH'S VIEW IS THAT IMPORTANT PROGRESS WAS MADE AT REYKJAVIK. HE DOES NOT THINK THAT GORBACHEV HAS YET NECESSARILY EXCLUDED A WASHINGTON SUMMIT. HE WAS HAPPY THAT GENSCHER HAD BEEN ABLE TO GIVE A DECISIVE LEAD IN RALLYING THE ALLIES BEHIND THE AMERICANS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.

4. ONE OF OUR CONTACTS IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE DESCRIBED THE MOVES MADE BY REAGAN AS 'BREATHTAKING'. THE IMPLICATION OF REAGAN'S START AND INF OFFERS HAD FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR NATO'S STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, AND FOR THE CONVENTIONAL IMBALANCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, NONE OF WHICH ISSUES HAD YET BEEN PROPERLY ADDRESSED IN THE ALLIANCE.

5. ON INF, INITIAL PRIVATE COMMENTS FROM THE MILITARY ARE NEGATIVE ABOUT ZERO LRINF IN EUROPE. THIS PROPOSAL MADE VERY RIGOROUS CONTROLS ON SRINF ALL THE MORE NECESSARY. ONE SUGGESTION IS THAT KOHL WILL BE ADVISED TO MAKE A PITCH ON SRINF AGAIN NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON. THE AUSWAERTIGES AMT ON THE OTHER HAND ARE CONTENT TO REST ON THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY REAGAN ON SRINF. THE 'BINDING COMMITMENT' TO START NEGOTIATIONS ON SRINF AFTER SIX MONTHS PROVISIONALLY AGREED AT REYKJAVIK WOULD IN THEIR VIEW BE SUFFICIENT. AUSWAERTIGES AMT SAY THE ABSENCE OF PRECISION ON SRINF RANGE IS NOT A PROBLEM BECAUSE GORBACHEV AGREED THAT MISSILES 'UP TO 1000 KMS' (LOWER LIMITS UNSPECIFIED) WOULD BE COVERED. WE SHALL PURSUE THIS FURTHER WITH THE FEDERAL MOD.

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6. AUSWAERTIGES AMT ALSO SEE AS POSITIVE POINTS THE PROGRESS TOWARDS VERIFICATION OF INF, REVERSION TO 50 PER CENT CUTS ON START AND THE MOVEMENT BY BOTH SIDES ON TESTING. THESE MOVES NOW NEEDED TO BE FORMALISED AT THE GENEVA NEGOTIATING TABLES.

7. DESPITE THE PUBLIC SOLIDARITY WITH THE AMERICANS, REYKJAVIK MAY WELL REOPEN DEBATE IN THE COALITION ON THE OFFENSIVE/DEFENSIVE LINK AND THE LIMITS OF THE RESEARCH PERMITTED UNDER THE ABM TREATY. SPD SPOKESMEN HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT FOR ALLOWING SDI TO FRUSTRATE A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH.

8. TODAY'S PRESS CARRIES RATHER MORE UP-BEAT ASSESSMENT OF REYKJAVIK, FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, THAN WAS THE CASE YESTERDAY, WHEN THE LEITMOTIF WAS 'FAILURE'.

9. GENSCHER IS TO GIVE A FORMAL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON 16 OCTOBER (FOLLOWING TOMORROW'S CABINET). I AM SEEING TELTSCHIK TOMORROW. KOHL LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON ON 20 OCTOBER, ACCOMPANIED BY WOERNER AND GENSCHER. I SHALL TELEGRAPH AGAIN LATER IN THE WEEK.

BULLARD

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