

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
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 MR DEREK THOMAS
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 MR DAVID THOMAS

MR POWELL, NO 10 DOWNING ST

MR D NICHOLLS, DUS(P) } MOD
 S. NPS () }
 DACU }
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RESIDENT CLERK

15.1.85

FM WASHI TO FCOLN
 161700Z JAN
 GRS 400

IMMEDIATE

UNCLASSIFIED

FM WASHINGTON

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 115

OF 161700Z JANUARY 1986

INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW PARIS BONN UKDEL NATO MODUK (FOR DACU)

INFO PRIORITY UKDIS GENEVA UKDEL VIENNA UKDEL STOCKHOLM

ADVANCE COPY

MIPT: GORBACHEV'S STATEMENT ON ARMS CONTROL1. TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

IN 1983, AT THE JAPANESE DIET, I CALLED FOR THE TOTAL ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SINCE THAT TIME, THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT FORWARD A SERIES OF PROPOSALS TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL THROUGH RADICAL REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS. AS EARLY AS 1981, I SET FORTH A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL LONG-RANGE INTERMEDIATE NUCLEAR MISSILES. AT THE GENEVA ARMS CONTROL TALKS IN NOVEMBER, WE MADE YET ANOTHER PROPOSAL DESIGNED TO BRING US CLOSER TO THE GOAL OF ZERO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. NOW THE SOVIET UNION HAS RESPONDED WITH A PROPOSAL WHICH BUILDS ON SOME OF THE ELEMENTS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY SET FORTH.

I WELCOME THE SOVIETS' LATEST RESPONSE AND HOPE THAT IT REPRESENTS A HELPFUL FURTHER STEP IN THE PROCESS. WE, TOGETHER WITH OUR ALLIES, WILL GIVE CAREFUL STUDY TO GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV'S SUGGESTIONS. MANY ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE RESPONSE ARE UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITIONS AND CONTINUE TO CAUSE US SERIOUS CONCERN. THERE ARE OTHERS THAT AT FIRST GLANCE MAY BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

THE AMERICAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE GENEVA SUMMIT TO SEEK EARLY PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING RADICAL REDUCTIONS IN OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INCLUDING AN INTERIM AGREEMENT ON INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES. IF THE POSITION OUTLINED BY GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV ADVANCES THIS OBJECTIVE IT WOULD PROVE TO BE A CONSTRUCTIVE STEP.

UNQUOTE
 WRIGHT