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INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, BONN, UKDEL NATO

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADORS.

MIPT: NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL: UK/FRENCH TALKS: NITZE.

1. AT HIS TALKS TODAY AT THE QUAI, DAUNT SUMMARISED THE DISCUSSIONS WITH NITZE IN LONDON AND THE INITIAL BRITISH REACTION TO THE PROPOSED US RESPONSE ON INF.

2. HENAULT REPORTED ON NITZE'S MEETINGS ON 6/7 FEBRUARY WITH VEDRINE (DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, ELYSEE) AND DUMAS. VEDRINE HAD CRITICIZED AMERICAN RHETORIC ON A NUCLEAR FREE-WORLD: FRENCH FEARS THAT THE REAGAN VISION OF THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAD BOOMERANGED WITH GORBACHEV'S PROPOSALS OF 15 JANUARY. HE HAD URGED THE US TO STRESS THE CONVENTIONAL AND CW THREATS IN THE REPLY TO GORBACHEV AND HAD EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS CONDITIONS ON FRENCH FORCES AND ARMS CONTROL. DUMAS HAD COVERED SIMILAR GROUND WITH NITZE AND HAD STRESSED THE CURRENT CLOSE UK/FRENCH CONSULTATIONS.

3. IT EMERGED THAT NITZE HAD HANDED OVER A LETTER FROM REAGAN TO MITTERRAND. HENAULT READ TO US, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

(A) "THE US CAN MAKE NO COMMITMENTS FOR OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS AND WE CANNOT AGREE TO ANY BILATERAL US-SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD SUGGEST OTHERWISE. THE US POSITION REMAINS THAT THE NEGOTIATION OF LIMITATIONS ON THIRD COUNTRY NUCLEAR SYSTEMS MUST BE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY AND PREROGATIVE OF THOSE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. IT WOULD OF COURSE REMAIN TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AND WHEN THEIR OWN SECURITY INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDED THAT SUBSTANTIAL US/SOVIET REDUCTIONS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN A FIRST STAGE AND THAT MEANINGFUL

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STEPS DEALING WITH THE SECURITY THREAT POSED BY CONVENTIONAL,  
CHEMICAL AND OTHER ARMS HAD ALSO BEEN ACCOMPLISHED''.

(B) ON THE NEW US INF PROPOSAL: ''THESE REDUCTIONS AND LIMITS WOULD  
NOT (REPEAT NOT) BE CONTINGENT ON RESTRICTIONS ON THE FORCES OF THE  
UK AND FRANCE''.

4. DAUNT COMMENTED THAT THESE POINTS HAD NOT BEEN COVERED IN THE  
SPEAKING NOTES WHICH NITZE HAD USED IN LONDON. THEY SEEMED AT FIRST  
SIGHT NOT ONLY TO MEET FRENCH CONCERNS BUT ALSO THOSE WHICH YOU AND  
THE PRIME MINISTER HAD EXPRESSED TO NITZE.

FRETWELL

\*LIMITED  
DEF D  
ACDD  
WED  
SOV D  
NEWS D  
PLANNING STAFF  
PS  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/PUS  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR GOODALL  
MR DAUNT  
MR RATFORD

COPIES TO:  
DUS (P) MOD  
DACU MOD  
DNUC POL/SY MOD  
MR MALLABY CABINET OFFICE  
MR POWELL NO 10 DOWNING ST

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