

GRS 290

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FM UKDIS GENEVA
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 007
OF 101635Z FEBRUARY 1986
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON
INFO ROUTINE BONN, PARIS
INFO SAVING UKDEL NATO, BRUSSELS

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

1. MY US COLLEAGUE CALLED ON ME THIS MORNING AND BRIEFED ME AS FOLLOWS ON HIS SERIES OF BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE RUSSIANS.
2. THERE WERE SEVEN MEETINGS BETWEEN 28 JANUARY AND 7 FEBRUARY, THREE AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THE US SIDE MADE IT CLEAR THEY SAW THESE DISCUSSIONS AS COMPLEMENTARY TO MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND WERE LOOKING PRIMARILY FOR PROGRESS ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN THE CD. THEY HAD REFUSED TO DISCUSS CW NON-PROLIFERATION DESPITE VIGOROUS SOVIET EFFORTS TO DO SO. THE AGENDA HAD EVENTUALLY BEEN CONFINED TO QUESTIONS OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF DATA.
3. THE TONE OF THE MEETINGS HAD BEEN "AGREEABLE AND BUSINESS-LIKE" AND BINARIES HAD NEVER BEEN MENTIONED. THE RUSSIAN SIDE CONSISTENTLY TOOK A MINIMALIST POSITION. THEY SHOWED INTEREST IN DISCUSSING US AND WESTERN IDEAS BUT WOULD NOT ELABORATE ON GORBACHEV'S 15 JANUARY STATEMENT.
4. PROGRESS HAD BEEN VERY SLIGHT, THE MINIMUM THAT COULD BE EXPECTED FROM SEVEN REASONABLY CORDIAL MEETINGS. BOTH SIDES HAD AGREED TO REVIEW THE RESULTS AND DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED. LOWITZ SAID THAT THE US WOULD BE CONCERNED TO ASSURE THE G21 THAT THE BILATERAL DISCUSSION WOULD NOT DETRACT FROM EFFORTS IN THE CD TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE CW BAN. THEY HAD MADE THIS PLAIN TO THE RUSSIANS: THIS MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF CAUSING THEM TO ABANDON EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE NON-PROLIFERATION. THE RUSSIANS WERE NONETHELESS MOST

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ANXIOUS TO KEEP THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS GOING. ISSRAELYN HAD TOLD LOWITZ HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" AND CONSIDERED THEY REPRESENT A "NEW CHAPTER" IN CW NEGOTIATIONS.

5. LOWITZ STRESSED THAT THE US WAS NOT INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING A NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS BUT SAID THAT SOME US/USSR DISCUSSION ON THIS WAS DUE TO TAKE PLACE, ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT IN GENEVA. IT WOULD BE "MINIMAL AND EXPLORATORY ONLY".

6. PLEASE SEE IFT.

CROMARTIE

YYYY

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

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