

GRS 240

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FM PARIS

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 207

OF 251838Z FEBRUARY 86

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, MODUK, BONN, ROME, UKDEL NATO

MODUK FOR DACU.

WASHINGTON TELNO 450: ARMS CONTROL: RESPONSE TO GORBACHEV.

1. MUSITELLI (ELYSEE9 CONFIRMED TO US TODAY THAT MITTERRAND HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM REAGAN OUTLINING HIS REPLY TO GORBACHEV. AT FIRST SIGHT, THE FRENCH WERE AGREEABLY SURPRISED BY REAGAN'S PROPOSAL ON INF, WHICH WAS A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT ON THE OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED BEFORE THE CONSULTATION OF ALLIES. THAT SAID, THE UNDERLYING DANGER REMAINED THAT EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION COULD BECOME FOCUSED ON THE QUESTION OF THE MODERNISATION OF BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES, PARTICULARLY IF GORBACHEV MADE OTHER CONCESSIONS ON OTHER PARTS OF THE INF PACKAGE. MITTERRAND'S REPLY TO REAGAN WOULD STRESS THE NEED TO PRESS FORWARD WITH CONVENTIONAL AND CW DISARMAMENT, AND NOT ONLY THE NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR FORCES.

2. MUSITELLI SAID THAT MITTERRAND'S VISIT TO MOSCOW WOULD BE SOME TIME BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER, BUT DATES HAD NOT YET BEEN FIXED. THE RUSSIANS HAD SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT DISCUSS PRECISE DATES UNTIL AFTER THE CPSU CONGRESS. (COMMENT: THEY MAY ALSO PREFER TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE FRENCH ELECTIONS FIRST.)

3. GRATEFUL FOR GUIDANCE AS TO CONTENTS OF REAGAN OFFER: WE ARE AT PRESENT RELYING ON PRESS STATEMENTS.

FRETWELL

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

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