

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

FM MOSCOW

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 372

OF 021400Z APRIL 86

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, MODUK
 INFO PRIORITY UKDIS GENEVA, UKMIS NEW YORK

MODUK FOR DACU

MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE: GORBACHEV'S STATEMENT ON TESTING AND
 MESSAGE TO UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SUMMARY

1. ON 1 APRIL KORNIENKO, PETROVSKY AND LOMEIKO GAVE A PRESS
 CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW ON GORBACHEV'S TELEVISION STATEMENT OF
 29 MARCH ON NUCLEAR TESTING (MY TELNO 360) AND HIS MESSAGE
 OF 28 MARCH TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL (MY TELNO 367).

2. NO NEW POINTS, BUT AN UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT THAT THE US
 SUMMIT WAS STILL 'ON THE AGENDA'. NO SHIFT ON REJECTION
 OF REAGAN'S OFFER TO OBSERVE A US TEST, AND CRITICISM OF
 RECENT US ACTIONS AS BEING CONTRARY TO THE GENEVA SPIRIT.

DETAIL

3. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT KORNIENKO MADE THE USUAL POINTS
 IN THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE NEED FOR A NUCLEAR TEST BAN,
 'THE MOST SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE STEP TOWARDS ENDING THE NUCLEAR
 ARMS RACE AND, TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE, THE PREVENTION OF AN
 ARMS RACE IN SPACE'. IN REFERRING TO GORBACHEV'S MESSAGE TO
 THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL HE RECALLED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD
 BEEN THE FIRST TO RESPOND TO THE UN'S DESIGNATION OF 1986
 AS 'INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE'. THE PARTY CONGRESS'
 PROMOTION OF A UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM WAS
 FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT.

4. THE FOLLOWING EMERGED IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS:

SUMMIT

GORBACHEV DID NOT INTEND TO REPLACE HIS VISIT TO THE US, AS
 AGREED AT GENEVA, WITH THE PROPOSED MEETING IN EUROPE TO DISCUSS
 AN END TO NUCLEAR TESTING - ON WHICH IT WAS HOPED THAT PRESIDENT
 REAGAN HAD NOT SAID HIS LAST WORD. A US SUMMIT WAS 'NOT REMOVED
 FROM THE AGENDA'.

- 1 -
RESTRICTED

/TEST

RESTRICTED

TEST BAN NEGOTIATIONS/VERIFICATION

THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT PLACE ANY PRE-CONDITIONS ON THE PROPOSED BILATERAL, TRILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL TALKS. VERIFICATION COULD BE DISCUSSED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE BAN ISSUE ITSELF.

REAGAN'S OFFER TO OBSERVE US TEST

THE SOVIET RESPONSE WAS 'UNAMBIGUOUS'. THEY HAD PROPOSED THAT EXPERTS FROM BOTH SIDES SHOULD MEET AT ANY TIME AND PLACE TO DISCUSS VERIFICATION OF A BAN. 'TO OBSERVE THE CONDUCTING OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WOULD IN FACT SIGNIFY THEIR LEGALISATION. LET THE AMERICANS FIND COMPANIONS WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A LEGALISATION FROM ANOTHER QUARTER'.

ALLIES' PARTICIPATION IN SDI

THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TO PARTICIPATION, WHETHER BY THE FRG, ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER STATE, IN US PLANS TO CREATE A 'SPACE SHIELD' WAS 'ESPECIALLY NEGATIVE'. WHOEVER JOINED IN THESE DANGEROUS PLANS 'CANNOT RECKON ON A POSITIVE REACTION FROM US'.

'SPIRIT OF GENEVA'

THERE WERE COMPLETE GROUNDS FOR CHARACTERISING US ACTIONS IN RECENT MONTHS AS NOT CORRESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT OF GENEVA. THESE WERE 'CHALLENGING AND PROVACATIVE'. US NUCLEAR TESTS AND 'AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS' AGAINST LIBYA WERE SINGLED OUT.

CARTLEDGE

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS

LIMITED

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING STREET]

SOVIET D
DEFENCE D
R D
PLANNING STAFF
EED
NAD
WED
ACDD
CRD
FED
NED
PUSD
PROTOCOL D
OND .

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RENTON
PS/MR EGGAR
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR FERGUSSON
SIR W HARDING
MR RATFORD
MR DAUNT
MR DAVID THOMAS
MR LONG

CHIEF CLERK
MR BRAITHWAITE
MR BARRINGTON
MR WINCHESTER

2
RESTRICTED