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## GENEVA NUCLEAR AND SPACE NEGOTIATIONS: ROUND V

## SUMMARY

1. MODEST US EXPECTATIONS FOR ROUND V IN GENEVA. USUAL UNCERTAINTY ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS. START THE MOST LIKELY AREA FOR ANY PROGRESS?

## DETAIL

2. ROUND V OF THE GENEVA NUCLEAR AND SPACE NEGOTIATIONS OPENS IN GENEVA ON 8 MAY. THE PRESIDENT HAS APPROVED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE US DELEGATION. THESE CONTAIN NO SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENTS.
3. ROUND V WILL NOT NOW BE A PRE-SUMMIT ROUND. MOST US OFFICIALS THEREFORE HAVE MODEST EXPECTATIONS ABOUT LIKELY PROGRESS: ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE NEXT SUMMIT IS HELD TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, THE GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT THE AUTUMN ROUND WILL BE MORE ACTIVE. MANY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE START NEGOTIATING GROUP MAY BE THE ONE IN WHICH PROGRESS IS MOST LIKELY. THEY NOTE THAT THERE IS STILL ALMOST NO COMMON GROUND ON DEFENCE/SPACE ON WHICH IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BUILD, AND THEY DETECT A LACK OF SOVIET INTEREST IN INF FOLLOWING THE US FEBRUARY PROPOSALS. IN START, ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS THOUGHT THAT COMMON GROUND COULD BE REACHED QUITE QUICKLY IF THE RUSSIANS WISHED TO FIND IT (AND OF COURSE IF THEY DROPPED THEIR PRESENT DEFINITION OF STRATEGIC SYSTEMS AND THEIR INSISTENCE ON TIGHT LINKAGE WITH THE DEFENCE/SPACE NEGOTIATIONS).
4. THE US DELEGATION HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT FOR THE THREE NEGOTIATING GROUPS:
  - (A) INF. THE US AIM WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE THE RUSSIANS TO EXPLORE THE US FEBRUARY PROPOSALS FOR A GLOBAL ZERO-ZERO SOLUTION. THE DELEGATION WILL ALSO BE PREPARED, IF THE RUSSIANS PREFER, TO EXPLORE THE US PROPOSAL OF LAST NOVEMBER (REITERATED IN FEBRUARY) FOR AN INTERIM LRINF AGREEMENT. A KEY PRIORITY FOR THE DELEGATION IN ROUND V WILL BE TO EXPLAIN TO THE RUSSIANS IN MORE DETAIL THE US IDEAS ON VERIFICATION PRESENTED IN OUTLINE AT THE END OF ROUND IV AND TO LISTEN TO ANY IDEAS THAT THE RUSSIANS MAY HAVE,
  - (B) START. THE OVERALL US OBJECTIVE IS TO TRY TO BUILD ON COMMON GROUND (NOTABLY ON THE NEED FOR FIFTY PER CENT REDUCTIONS, APPROPRIATELY APPLIED) AND TO SEARCH FOR FURTHER POINTS OF AGREEMENT AS BETWEEN THE SOVIET PROPOSALS OF 30 SEPTEMBER AND THE US PROPOSALS OF 1 NOVEMBER. THE US NEGOTIATING TEAM /will

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WILL AIM TO MAKE THE RUSSIANS FOCUS ON DETAIL AND AVOID GENERALITIES ON THE GORBACHEV 15 JANUARY MODEL. THEY WILL ALSO TRY TO ENGAGE THE RUSSIANS ON VERIFICATION (THE SOVIET TEAM WILL BE PRESSED TO GIVE SPECIFICITY TO REMARKS BY GORBACHEV AND OTHERS ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPLE THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE VERIFICATION) AND COUNTING RULES FOR RVS AND ALCMS (THE US LINE WILL BE THAT THE SALT III COUNTING RULES FOR RVS ARE INADEQUATE AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT ACCEPT RULES WHICH WOULD COUNT MORE ALCMS PER BOMBER THAN ARE ACTUALLY CARRIED). THE US TEAM WILL ALSO PROBE FOR SOVIET IDEAS ON THE DURATION OF ANY TREATY, REDUCTION SCHEDULES, AND WAYS OF CODIFYING THROW-WEIGHT REDUCTIONS.

(C) DEFENCE/SPACE. THE US TEAM WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE RUSSIANS TO ACCEPT THE US QUOTE OPEN LABORATORIES UNQUOTE PROPOSAL (AND, SPECIFICALLY, THE PROPOSAL FOR RECIPROCAL VISITS TO WHITE SANDS AND SARY SHAGAN) AND THE US PROPOSAL FOR MUTUAL BRIEFINGS ON EACH SIDE'S STRATEGIC DEFENCE PROGRAMMES. THE US TEAM IS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A DIALOGUE ON THE OFFENCE/DEFENCE RELATIONSHIP AND ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TRANSITION TOWARDS A DEFENCE-DOMINATED STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT. THE US TEAM WILL ALSO TRY TO ALLAY SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF SDI SYSTEMS.

5. AS USUAL, THERE IS UNCERTAINTY HERE ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS. ROUND IV IN GENEVA WAS CHARACTERISED BY A BADLY COORDINATED SOVIET PERFORMANCE. US OFFICIALS HOPE THAT THIS MAY CHANGE WITH TODAY'S NEWS THAT KARPOV HAS BEEN APPOINTED SOVIET NEGOTIATOR IN THE DEFENCE/SPACE GROUP (HE WILL ALSO BE OVERALL HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION), OBUKHOV HAS MOVED TO HEAD THE SOVIET START TEAM, AND MASTERKOV HAS BEEN ELEVATED FROM THE NUMBER THREE POSITION TO HEAD THE SOVIET INF TEAM. BUT MOST ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BELIEVE IT UNLIKELY THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL SHOW THEMSELVES WILLING TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE SUMMIT AS OPPOSED TO CONTINUING TO ENGAGE ACTIVELY IN COMPETITIVE PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.

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THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED

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