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OO TEAVI
FM FCOLN TO TEAVI
202016Z MAY
GRS 280

PM seen

SECRET
FM FCO
TO IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV
TELNO 147
OF 202016Z MAY 86

FOLLOWING FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY
MIPT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED PUBLIC LINE FOR USE ON 27 MAY.
BEGINS

1. THE GOVERNMENT HAS FREQUENTLY MADE CLEAR ITS BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS BY ALL PARTIES. WE HAVE DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SOVIET UNION ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THE NEED TO COMPLY STRICTLY WITH SUCH AGREEMENTS AND TO BE SEEN TO DO SO. WE HAVE DONE THIS MOST RECENTLY IN THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MR GORBACHEV WHICH LORD WHITELAW HAS TAKEN TO MOSCOW.

2. THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DECISION TO CONTINUE TO RESPECT FOR THE TIME BEING THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE UNRATIFIED SALT AGREEMENT BY DISMANTLING TWO POSEIDOM SUBMARINES.

3. THE PRSIDENT'S STATEMENT ON 27 MAY MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IF THE SOVIET UNION TAKES CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE YEAR TO ALTER THE CURRENT SITUATION, THE PRESIDENT WILL TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT IN REVIEWING WHETHER THE US SHOULD ITSELF EXCEED SALT II LIMITS. THUS THE DOOR HAS BEEN LEFT OPEN, AND THERE IS A CLEAR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO RESPOND POSITIVELY.

4. WE TRUST THEREFORE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE US ITSELF TO AVOID EXCEEDING THE SALT II LIMITS AT THE END OF THIS

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YEAR. THIS WOULD LEAVE THE WAY OPEN FOR REAL PROGRESS TO BE MADE
IN ARMS CONTROL, AS ENVISAGED BY BOTH LEADERS AT GENEVA LAST YEAR.
WE WOULD MUCH REGRET IT IF THE PROVISIONAL DECISION BY THE
PRESIDENT TO EXCEED THE LIMITS HAD TO BE IMPLEMENTED.
ENDS

HOWE

OCMIAN 9084

NNNN

LIMITED.

HD ACDD

HD DEF D

PS

PS/PUS

MR DEREK THOMAS

MR DAUNT

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