



ADVANCE COPIES 19  
US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

IMMEDIATE

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HD/SOVIET D

*A curiously low-key statement. Pl. see over the page for an assessment (DIP) It seems a pretty detailed statement to me. mt*

CONFIDENTIAL  
FM MOSCOW  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 674  
OF 020700Z JUNE 86

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, STOCKHOLM,  
INFO ROUTINE VIENNA, UKDIS GENEVA.

SALT II: SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

1. THE SOVIET UNION GOVERNMENT ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON 31 MAY PUBLISHED IN BOTH PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA. MAIN POINTS ARE:

A) THE UNITED STATES HAD TAKEN A STEP WHICH ONCE AGAIN REVEALED THEIR DESIRE TO STEP UP THE ARMS RACE, MILITARISE SPACE AND WHIP UP TENSION.

B) THE SOVIET UNION HAD WARNED THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN. THE AMERICANS HAD CHOSEN PRECISELY THE COURSE WHICH UNDERMINED ARMS LIMITATION AND REDUCTION. IT WAS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS STEP.

C) THE AMERICAN ACTION WAS AIMED AT OVERALL STRATEGIC BUILD UP TO WHICH SALT HAD BEEN A RESTRAINT. IN ADDITION TO CRUISE MISSILES FOR B52 AND B1B BOMBERS, THERE WAS MIDGETMAN, 50 MORE MX MISSILES, SPEEDING UP DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CRUISE MISSILES AND SDIs.

D) ACCUSATIONS OF SOVIET NON-COMPLIANCE WERE FALSE AND THE US GOVERNMENT KNEW IT VERY WELL. THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVED THAT CONTINUED MUTUAL OBSERVANCE OF SALT II WOULD PRESERVE STRATEGIC BALANCE AND STRENGTHEN SECURITY.

E) THE US HOWEVER HAD BEEN UNDERMINING SALT FOR A LONG TIME, FIRST BY NON-RATIFICATION, THEN BY DEPLOYING PERSHING IIR AND CRUISE MISSILES IN EUROPE AND BY VARIOUS (UNSPECIFIED) DEVIATIONS FROM SALT PROVISIONS AND NOW BY RENUNCIATION.



DEVIATIONS FROM SALT PROVISIONS AND NOW BY RENUNCIATION.

F) THE US ACTION SHOWED WHY THE AMERICANS WERE BEING SO UNCONSTRUCTIVE AT GENEVA AND TOWARDS A FUTURE US SOVIET SUMMIT. THE SOVIET VIEW REMAINED THAT 'FOR SUCH A SUMMIT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO BE READY TO REACH CONCRETE RESULTS AT LEAST IN THE AREA OF SECURITY AND ALSO AN APPROPRIATE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IS REQUIRED'. WHAT THE AMERICANS HAD DONE DID NOT CONFORM TO EITHER OF THESE STIPULATIONS.

G) THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT STAND IDLY BY. THE US SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THEY WOULD ACHIEVE MILITARY ADVANTAGE AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. AS SOON AS THE AMERICANS BREACHED AGREED LEVELS OR IN ANY OTHER WAY CONTRAVENED THE MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD REGARD ITSELF AS NO LONGER CONSTRAINED BY THE 1972 INTERIM AGREEMENT OR BY SALT AND WOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY PRACTICAL STEPS TO PREVENT STRATEGIC PARITY BEING DISTURBED. THESE MEASURES WOULD PREVENT THE US ACHIEVING SUPERIORITY IN THE MAIN TYPES OF NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

H) THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

COMMENT

2. IT USUALLY DOES TAKE THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES A FEW DAYS TO REACT FORMALLY TO DEVELOPMENTS. THIS STATEMENT WHILST FIRM IS NOT STRIDENT AND IT CONSPICUOUSLY FAILS TO 'CONDEMN' THE AMERICAN STEP. FORMAL SOVIET GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENTS USUALLY DO CONTAIN SUCH CONDEMNATION (THE 30 MAY STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, REPORTED SEPARATELY, DID SO). THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE COMMENT ELSEWHERE IN THE SOVIET MEDIA. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES MAY WELL BE RELUCTANT TO GENERATE TOO MUCH HEAT AS THEY WISH TO ENSURE THAT BLAME FOR DETERIORATING SUPER POWER RELATIONS AND IF NECESSARY THE ABSENCE OF A SUMMIT REMAINS FIRMLY ON THE AMERICAN SIDE.

CARTLEDGE

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