

ADVANCE COPIES

18

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

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OF 091315Z JUNE 86
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WASHINGTON TELNO 1516 : GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS : SOVIET PROPOSALS

1. US MINISTER COMBS TOLD US TODAY THAT THE ABM NO WITHDRAWAL AGAINST DEEP CUTS PROPOSAL HAD NOW BEEN OVERTAKEN IN GENEVA WITH THE SOVIET POSITION REVERTING TO THE EARLIER INSISTENCE ON THE BANNING OF 'SPACE STRIKE WEAPONS' BEFORE DEEP CUTS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS COULD BE AGREED. THE DEFINITION OF BANNING SPACE STRIKE WEAPONS WAS STATED TO INCLUDE THREE ELEMENTS:

- (A) THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ABM TREATY
- (B) BANNING ANTI SATELLITE WEAPONS
- (C) BANNING SPACE BASED WEAPONS WHICH COULD STRIKE TARGETS ON THE GROUND.

2. ACCORDING TO COMBS THE US AUTHORITIES REMAIN MYSTIFIED AS TO HOW THE ABM PROPOSAL GOT OUT OF THE BOTTLE BUT THEY ARE CLEAR THAT IT IS NOW WELL AND TRULY CORKED BACK IN AGAIN.

MARSHALL