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UNCLASSIFIED
FM WASHINGTON
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 1673
OF 242205Z JUNE 86
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW
INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO, UKDIS GENEVA, UKMIS VIENNA, UKDEL CDE
STOCKHOLM, BONN, PARIS

MIPT : PRESIDENT REAGAN'S INTERVIEW WITH THE LOS ANGELES TIMES
1. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS FROM THE INTERVIEW PUBLISHED
ON 24 JUNE :

NEW SOVIET PROPOSALS IN GENEVA

QUOTE WE'RE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF STUDYING THEIR
LATEST PROPOSAL. BUT I AM ENCOURAGED BECAUSE

.....FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY ARE - AS REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE SOVIET UNION - PROPOSING ACTUAL REDUCTIONS AND HAVE EVEN
ANNOUNCED THEIR DESIRE THAT THESE LEAD TO AN EVENTUAL ELIMINATION
OF SUCH WEAPONS. THAT PRINCIPLE, YES, I AGREE ON. THAT WAS MY
GOAL A LONG TIME AGO.

.....THE PRINCIPLE OF STARTING MEANINGFUL REDUCTIONS OF WEAPONS
AND WITH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF ELIMINATING THEM ENTIRELY - YES,
I AGREE WITH WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

Q: BUT IF THE SOVIETS INSIST ON LINKING THAT WITH SOME SORT OF
A CONSTRAINT ON SDI DEPLOYMENT?

A: WELL, YOU KNOW, THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT SDI THAT I THINK ALL
OF US SHOULD LOOK AT. FIRST OF ALL, RESEARCH IS NOT VIOLATING
ANY AGREEMENTS OR TREATIES. IF RESEARCH DEVELOPS THAT THERE IS
SUCH A WEAPON, WOULDN'T THAT BE - WOULDN'T THERE BE A PRACTICAL
REASON THEN TO SAY TO ALL THE WORLD, HERE IT IS, AND WHY DON'T WE
HAVE THIS?IF YOU'VE GOT THIS AND IT'S PRACTICAL, THEN YOU CAN
ALL GO TO SLEEP AND REST EASY AT NIGHT, KNOWING THAT IF SOMEBODY
TRIES TO CHEAT, IT WON'T WORK BECAUSE YOU HAVE THAT SYSTEM.

Q: BUT GOING BACK TO WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER, THIS ALSO COULD
BE PART OF YOUR NEGOTIATIONS ON ARMS CONTROL GENERALLY?

A: THAT'S RIGHT. YES.

Q: IN THAT ANSWER YOU ADDRESSED RESEARCH AND NOT DEPLOYMENT.
I BELIEVE MR GORBACHEV NOW HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT HE'LL ALLOW
RESEARCH TO GO AHEAD.

A: YES.

Q: IT'S THE NEXT STEP THAT SEEMS TO BE THE STICKING POINT.

A: ALL RIGHT, BUT NOW ALLOW ME TO HOLD BACK ON SOME THINGS
BECAUSE, AS I SAID BEFORE, I AM IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO
NEGOTIATE. UNQUOTE.

/IS SALT

IS SALT IN DEAD?

QUOTE I JUST AM RELUCTANT TO COME OUT WITH SOME OF THE DECLARATIONS THAT MANY OF YOU WANT TO HEAR, EITHER WAY, BECAUSE IN A WAY YOU COMMIT YOURSELF IN ADVANCE TO THINGS THAT MAY BECOME ISSUES IN A NEGOTIATION ...

BUT THE SOVIETS WERE VERY CHOOSY ABOUT THEIR OWN OBSERVANCE OF THE CONSTRAINTS OF SALT. SOME THINGS THEY DID ABIDE BY AND OBSERVE, AND OTHERS THEY IGNORED AND VIOLATED THE TERMS OF SALT TO GO FORWARD WITH THEIR OWN ARMS BUILD-UP. WE FOUND OURSELVES THE ONLY ONE THAT UNILATERALLY WAS OBSERVING THE CONSTRAINTS THAT WE LAID DOWN IN SALT TREATIES.

WELL, WE CAN'T GO ON DOING THAT. WE DON'T SEEK A MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER THE SOVIET UNION. WE SEEK A DETERRENT. BUT IT MUST BE A DETERRENT THAT IS PRACTICAL AND REAL. UNQUOTE
US/SOVIET RELATIONS

QUOTE I THINK THEY'RE ON A MORE SOLID FOOTING THAN THEY'VE BEEN FOR A LONG TIME. UNQUOTE
SUMMIT THIS YEAR?

QUOTE I CERTAINLY BELIEVE SO, AND HE HAS GIVEN EVERY INDICATION THAT HE WANTS TO HAVE A SUMMIT. UNQUOTE

WRIGHT

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

LIMITED
ACDD
DEFENCE D
SOVIET D
NEWS D
NAD
EED
WED
PLANNING STAFF
RES D
INFO D
PUSD
NED

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RENTON
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR RATFORD
MR DAUNT
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