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MOSCOW TELNO 778 (NOT TO ALL): GORBACHEV'S LETTER TO REAGAN

1. AT THE COUNCIL'S WEEKLY LUNCH LEDOGAR (US) READ OUT A REPORT ON DUBININ'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN ON 23 JUNE.

BEGINS

-- SOVIET AMBASSADOR DUBININ CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 23 TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, DUBININ PRESENTED A LETTER FROM GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV TO THE PRESIDENT.

-- THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL, POSITIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING.

-- THE PRESIDENT RECALLED THAT THE TWO LEADERS HAD AGREED THAT A SUMMIT SHOULD BE HELD IN 1986. HE WELCOMED RECENT SOVIET PROPOSALS AT THE NUCLEAR AND SPACE TALKS IN GENEVA, AS WELL AS RECENT SOVIET STEPS TO RESOLVE A NUMBER OF HUMANITARIAN CASES.

-- DUBININ, IN HIS REMARKS, AFFIRMED GORBACHEV'S DESIRE FOR A SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOME AT THE SUMMIT, AND SAID GORBACHEV BELIEVED THAT GOOD ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS WERE WITHIN REACH. HE SAID GORBACHEV ALSO WAS INTERESTED IN MAKING PROGRESS ON REGIONAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES.

-- THE MAIN THEMES OF GORBACHEV'S LETTER, AND DUBININ'S REMARKS, WERE:

-- THE SOVIETS ARE AS DISAPPOINTED AS WE BY DEVELOPMENTS AFTER GENEVA, AND HAVE ADVANCED A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE NOT RESULTED IN RECIPROCAL MOVEMENT BY THE U.S.

-- MOSCOW IS CONVINCED THAT WITHOUT SOME ASSURANCE THAT ACTUAL AGREEMENTS WILL BE REACHED, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN HOLDING A SUMMIT.

-- THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION SHOULD INTENSIFY DISCUSSIONS ON THREE AREAS FOR AGREEMENT: SPACE AND STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SEMI COLON INF SEMI COLON AND NUCLEAR TESTING.

/GORBACHEV

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— GORBACHEV ALSO CITED THE POSSIBILITY FOR PROGRESS IN SUCH AREAS AS CONVENTIONAL FORCES, NUCLEAR REACTOR SAFETY, PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, AND BILATERAL CONTACTS.

— THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT THE WAY TO PROCEED NOW IS TO FOCUS EFFORTS IN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPERT LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, AND TO MAINTAIN CONTACT THROUGH EMBASSIES. THESE EFFORTS COULD BE REVIEWED AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AT A TIME YET TO BE DETERMINED.  
ENDS

2. LEDOGAR SAID THAT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE LETTER HAD CONTAINED NEW PROPOSALS FOR AN EQUAL GLOBAL LIMIT ON INF WERE INACCURATE, ALTHOUGH GORBACHEV HAD INDICATED A READINESS TO CONSIDER SOME, UNDEFINED, INTERIM AND PARTIAL MEASURES. IN SHORT, THE SOVIET UNION HAD NOT DEMONSTRATED ANY NEW WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT EQUAL GLOBAL LEVELS ON INF.

GRAHAM

EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS  
LIMITED

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SOVIET D  
DEFENCE D  
R D  
PLANNING STAFF  
EED  
NAD  
WED  
ACDD  
CRD  
NEWS DEPT.  
INFO DEPT.  
FED  
NED  
PUSD  
PROTOCOL DEPT.

PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR RENTON  
PS/MR EGGAR  
PS/PUS  
MR DEREK THOMAS  
MR GOODALL  
MR FERGUSSON  
SIR W HARDING  
MR RATFORD  
MR DAUNT  
MR DAVID THOMAS  
MR LONG

CHIEF CLERK  
MR BRAITHWAITE  
MR BARRINGTON  
MR WINCHESTER

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