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FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 1891
OF 171830Z JULY 86
INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW, MODUK

MODUK (FOR DACU)

MY TELNO 1879: US RESPONSE TO SOVIET GENEVA ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS

I. TWO FURTHER IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE ELEMENTS IN THE US RESPONSE TO THE MOST RECENT SOVIET ARMS CONTROL PROPOSALS IN GENEVA ARE NOW EMERGING:

(A) A US OFFER TO LINK REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC SYSTEMS TO NUCLEAR TESTING CONSTRAINTS, PROBABLY BY PROPOSING THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF TESTS RUN IN PARALLEL WITH REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBERS OF STRATEGIC WARHEADS. THE IDEA IS SUPPORTED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT (AND PERHAPS ACDA) AND OPPOSED BY OSD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARE ARGUING THAT, WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF ZERO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS ACHIEVED, THERE WILL BE NO REQUIREMENT FOR ANY NUCLEAR TESTS AT ALL AND THAT IT FOLLOWS LOGICALLY THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF TESTS COULD BEGIN AS REDUCTIONS IN THE NUMBER OF DEPLOYED SYSTEMS BEGIN. THEY ARE ALSO ARGUING THAT CONSTRAINTS ON THE NUMBER OF PERMITTED TESTS WOULD INHIBIT THE SOVIET ABILITY TO DEVELOP NEW WARHEADS AND TAKE SOME POLITICAL PRESSURE OFF THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE NUCLEAR TESTING ISSUE. OSD ARE ARGUING, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT THERE IS NO TECHNICAL OR MILITARY LOGIC IN COUPLING SYSTEMS REDUCTIONS AND TESTING CONSTRAINTS SINCE THERE IS NO AUTOMATIC LINK BETWEEN THE SIZES OF NUCLEAR ARSENALS AND THE NUMBER OF TESTS REQUIRED,

(B) US AGREEMENT TO MODIFY THEIR NOVEMBER PROPOSAL FOR A BAN ON MOBILE MISSILES. THE VARIOUS IDEAS UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDE A PROPOSAL TO BAN OR LIMIT ONLY MIRVED MOBILE MISSILES

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AND/OR A PROPOSAL TO SET GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTRAINTS ON DEPLOYMENT AREAS FOR MOBILE MISSILES. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO THINK ON THESE LINES BY IDEAS FOR VERIFYING MOBILE MISSILE DEPLOYMENTS PUT FORWARD BY THE RUSSIANS DURING THE LAST ROUND IN GENEVA. OSD APPEAR NOT TO BE OPPOSING THIS IDEA, PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY JUDGE THAT GIVING GROUND IN THIS AREA WILL HELP TO STAVE OFF PRESSURE TO GIVE GROUND IN THE DEFENCE/SPACE AREA EG BY EXPRESSING INTEREST IN SOME VARIATION OF THE SOVIET ABM TREATY EXTENSION PROPOSAL.

WRIGHT

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

LIMITED PS
ACDD PS/LADY YOUNG
DEFENCE D
SOVIET D PS/MR RENTON
NEWS D PS/PUS
NAD MR DEREK THOMAS
EED MR GOODALL
WED MR RATFORD
PLANNING STAFF MR DAUNT
RES D MR DAVID THOMAS
INFO D MR BRAITHWAITE
PUSD MR SLATER
NED MR BARRINGTON

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ARMS CONTROL TALKS

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