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 FM WASHINGTON  
 TO PRIORITY FCO  
 TELNO 2061

OF 072200Z AUG 86

INFO PRIORITY BONN, PARIS, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, MODUK (FOR DACU)  
 INFO PRIORITY UKDEL VIENNA, UKDEL STOCKHOLM, UKDIS GENEVA

MT

US/SOVIET EXPERT LEVEL CONTACTS ON ARMS CONTROL

1. THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED ON 6 AUGUST THAT A TEAM OF SENIOR US EXPERTS WOULD VISIT MOSCOW ON 11-12 AUGUST TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO THE GENEVA NUCLEAR AND SPACE TALKS. THE TEAM WILL BE LED BY NITZE AND INCLUDE ROWNY (SPECIAL ADVISER ON ARMS CONTROL), KAMPELMAN, LEHMAN AND GLITMAN (US GENEVA NEGOTIATORS), PERLE (DOD) AND LINHARD (NSC). THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT THE VISIT WAS INTENDED TO QUOTE SUPPORT THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA AND THE SEPTEMBER 19-20 1986 MEETING OF SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE IN WASHINGTON UNQUOTE.

2. THE MEETING IS THE NST COMPONENT OF THE US/SOVIET EXPERT LEVEL WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSED BY BESSMERTNYKH DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON 25-29 JULY AND ACCEPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION (WASHINGTON TELNO 2000 AND RICKETTS TELELETTER TO ROBINSON OF 1 AUGUST). WE UNDERSTAND FROM ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS THAT THE MEETING WAS AGREED WITH THE RUSSIANS IN PRINCIPLE SOME DAYS AGO BUT THAT FINAL DETAILS AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE US TEAM WERE ONLY SETTLED ON 6 AUGUST. THE ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS THAT THE TEAM SHOULD BE MUCH SMALLER (WE THINK CONSISTING ONLY OF NITZE, SUPPORTED BY NSC STAFF) BUT THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF THIS APPARENTLY PROVED TOO DIFFICULT TO HANDLE. IT WAS THEREFORE FINALLY AGREED THAT ROWNY, PERLE AND ALL THREE GENEVA NEGOTIATORS SHOULD ALSO TAKE PART.

3. THE TEAM'S MANDATE IS TO TRY TO IDENTIFY WITH THE RUSSIANS AREAS UNDER DISCUSSION AT THE GENEVA NST WHERE PROGRESS MAY BE POSSIBLE. THE US TEAM WILL ALSO BE PREPARED TO ANSWER SOVIET QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO GORBACHEV OF 25 JULY ALTHOUGH THE NSC SAY THAT THE TEAM ARE WITHOUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS THAT ADD SUBSTANTIVELY TO THE CONTENTS OF THAT LETTER.

4. THE WORK PROGRAMME AGREED WITH BESSMERTNYKH WILL CONTAIN ELEMENTS COVERING THE WHOLE RANGE OF ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. BLACKWILL (US MBFR NEGOTIATOR) HAS ALREADY VISITED MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MIKHAILOV (UKDEL VIENNA TELNO 44); BARRY WILL MEET GRINIEVSKY; US AND SOVIET CD AMBASSADORS WILL CONTINUE THEIR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA ON CW ARMS CONTROL; DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR TESTING ISSUES TOOK PLACE IN GENEVA LAST WEEK (UKDEL NATO TELNO 228); AND THERE WILL BE A SECOND ROUND OF US/SOVIET TALKS ON CW PROLIFERATION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER (THE FIRST ROUND WAS HELD IN BERNE IN EARLIER THIS YEAR). WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, NOTABLY

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THE NEW DIALOGUE ON NUCLEAR TESTING ISSUES, THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE A CONTINUATION OR ACCELERATION OF EXISTING US/SOVIET CONTACTS ON ARMS CONTROL MATTERS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE PROSPECT OF THE SHULTZ/SHEVARDNADZE MEETING ON 19-20 SEPTEMBER AND OF A SECOND REAGAN/GORBACHEV SUMMIT WILL MAKE ANY OF THESE BILATERAL CONTACTS MORE FRUITFUL THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST.

5. WE UNDERSTAND IN CONFIDENCE FROM THE NSC THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A RETURN MATCH FOR THE VISIT OF NITZE'S TEAM TO MOSCOW WHEN A SOVIET TEAM VISITS WASHINGTON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER FOR A SECOND ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON NST ISSUES.

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US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

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