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FM WASHINGTON
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 2754
OF 292300Z OCTOBER 86
INFO PRIORITY MODUK
INFO ROUTINE BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO, MOSCOW

MODUK FOR DUS(P), DACU
OUR TELNO 2715: GENEVA NST
SUMMARY

1. US TABLE AT GENEVA THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR A 10 YEAR PROGRAMME OF SDI CONSTRAINT AND OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS REDUCTIONS, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF OFFENSIVE BALLISTIC MISSILES BY 1996.

DETAIL

2. IT HAS BECOME CLEAR, FROM OUR CONTACTS WITH POINDEXTER AND OTHERS (INCLUDING HOLMES, PERLE, AND COCKELL) THAT, DESPITE OUR REPRESENTATIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION SENT INSTRUCTIONS ON 28 OCTOBER TO THE GENEVA TEAM ON THE LINES DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 OF OUR TELNO 2710. THE US PROPOSALS IN QUESTION WILL THEREFORE HAVE BEEN TABLED IN GENEVA ON 29 OCTOBER.

3. POINDEXTER HAS STRESSED TO ME THAT THE US TEAM WOULD DO NO MORE THAN TABLING IN GENEVA THE PROPOSALS THAT WERE MADE IN REYJKAVIK. NO NEW POINTS, OR ARGUMENTATION, ARE BEING ADVANCED. APPARENTLY OUR CONCERNS WERE MENTIONED AT AN NSPG MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON 27 OCTOBER, BUT IT WAS HELD THAT THEY WERE OUTWEIGHED BY THE NEED (SEEN PARTICULARLY STRONGLY BY SHULTZ) TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK THE TASK OF FEEDING INTO THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS ALL THE NEW US POSITIONS TAKEN AT REYJKAVIK. THE PRESENT GENEVA ROUND ENDS ON 4 NOVEMBER, AND SHULTZ IS LIKELY TO SEE SHEVARDNADZE ON 5 NOVEMBER IN VIENNA: IT SEEMS THAT HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT FIRST TO SET OUT, FORMALLY, THE FULL US MENU.

4. WE HAVE OF COURSE REGISTERED CONCERN THAT NOTHING IS APPARENTLY BEING SAID IN GENEVA, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ELIMINATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILES, ABOUT THE NEED TO ELIMINATE CONVENTIONAL DISPARITIES.

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COMMENT

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5. THIS IS CLEARLY NOT SATISFACTORY.
6. WE SUSPECT THAT AN ADDITIONAL US MOTIVE MAY HAVE BEEN A PERCEIVED NEED TO GIVE THE RUSSIANS A QUOTE AUTHORISED VERSION UNQUOTE OF THE 10 YEAR PROGRAMME PROPOSAL IN ORDER TO COUNTER SOVIET SUGGESTIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AT ONE STAGE ACCEPTED THAT THE AIM WOULD BE TO ELIMINATE ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHIN 10 YEARS.

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