

ADVANCE COPIES

18

49

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS

PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RENTON
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR GOODALL
MR RATFORD
MR FALL
MR FEARN

HD/DEFENCE D
HD/ACDD
HD/SOVIET D

RESIDENT CLERK

MR POWELL, NO 10 DOWNING ST

MR D NICHOLLS, DUS(P)
P. NPS
DACU
CSI

MOD



MR MALLABY, CAB OFF.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 3015
OF 270216Z NOVEMBER 86
AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK
INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY BONK, PARIS, MOSCOW

mb

MODUK FOR PS/S OF S, MA/CDS, DUS(P), DACU
MY TELNO 2843 : SALT II LIMITS
SUMMARY

1. ADMINISTRATION DECIDE TO BREAK THE LIMITS THIS WEEK.

DETAIL

2. US EMBASSIES IN ALLIED CAPITALS ARE TONIGHT BEING INSTRUCTED TO BRIEF MOST GOVERNMENTS ON HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS ON THE SALT LIMITS WHICH WERE TAKEN EARLIER TODAY.
3. WE UNDERSTAND (FROM AN NSC SOURCE, IN CONFIDENCE) THAT THE DECISIONS WERE:
 - A) THAT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE 131ST ALCM-CARRYING B-52 (PARA 2A OF TUR) SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON 28 NOVEMBER; AND
 - B) THAT THE OVERHAUL OF THE NEXT POSEIDON SUBMARINE (THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON) SHOULD START AS PLANNED ON 30 NOVEMBER (PARA 2B OF TUR).

SINCE OVERHAUL DOES NOT MEAN DISMANTLEMENT, THE EFFECT OF THE TWO DECISIONS WILL BE TO PRODUCE AN IMMEDIATE BREACH OF THE SALT II SUB-LIMIT OF 1320 MIRVED MISSILES AND ALCM-CARRYING BOMBERS.

4. OUR SOURCE, WHO WAS SURPRISED AT THE DECISION, CONFIRMED THAT WEINBERGER ARGUED FOR THE OVERHAUL AND RETENTION OF THE ALEXANDER HAMILTON: THE US NAVY PREFERENCE FOR ITS DISMANTLEMENT (ON ECONOMIC/MANNING GROUNDS) WAS NOT THEREFORE VENTILATED.

5. THE NSC'S BRIEF RECOMMENDED AGAINST A BREACH OF THE 1320 LIMIT, ON THE GROUNDS OF LIKELY CONGRESSIONAL REACTIONS (AND THE USN PREFERENCE). BUT OUR SOURCE INDICATES THAT THOSE PRESENT, WHO INCLUDED SHULTZ, (WHOSE STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEF WAS, WE KNOW, SIMILAR TO THE NSC'S) WERE UNANIMOUS IN ADVISING THE PRESIDENT THAT STOPPING SHORT OF A BREACH OF THE LIMITS WOULD, IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BE INTERPRETED AS SHOWING WEAKNESS, AND SHOULD NOT THEREFORE BE CONTEMPLATED.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A LOW-KEY ANNOUNCEMENT ON 28 NOVEMBER IS ENVISAGED. BUT LEAKS HERE, OR IN ALLIED CAPITALS, SEEM LIKELY BEFORE THEN.

7. ADVANCE COPIES TO PS/SOFS, GOODALL, FALL, PAKENHAM AND MEYER (FCO): PS/SOFS, MA/CDS DUS(P), CPR, AND DACU (MOD): MALLABY (CABINET OFFICE): AND POWELL (NO 10).

ACLAND