

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW WASHINGTON SALALAH PARIS INFO PRIORITY UKDEL
NATO ROME

CALL BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON SECRETARY OF STATE:
FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

1. POPOV CALLED ON LORD CARRINGTON AT HIS OWN REQUEST AT NORTHOLT BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF STATE LEFT FOR HIS VISIT TO THE FRG EARLY THIS MORNING. POPOV STRESSED THAT GROMYKO HAD WANTED HIM TO SEE LORD CARRINGTON PERSONALLY ABOUT A SUBJECT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BOTH FOR ANGLO/SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. HE THEN READ OUT THE COMMUNICATION IN MIFT.
2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THIS CAREFULLY BEFORE RESPONDING. HE AGREED THAT WE NEEDED BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND TO DEFUSE EAST/WEST PROBLEMS. THE UK ALSO SET GREAT STORE ON THE TNF TALKS, WHICH WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE NATO DECISION. HE HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT SOVIET MATHEMATICS AND VIEW OF THE MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE. POPOV INTERJECTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO LOOK AT THIS AGAIN. THE MATHEMATICS COULD BE DISCUSSED. LORD CARRINGTON AGREED.
3. ON THE CDE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASKED WHAT THE RUSSIANS MEANT BY THE NEED FOR THE WEST TO QUOTE EXTEND THE CONFIDENCE ZONE ACCORDINGLY UNQUOTE IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET AGREEMENT TO APPLY CBMS TO THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN PART OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THESE WERE MATTERS FOR THE TALKS THEMSELVES. LORD CARRINGTON ASKED WHETHER SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD AT MADRID OR DURING THE FIRST STAGE OF ANY CONFERENCE. HE COULD NOT SEE HOW THERE COULD BE A FIRST STAGE UNTIL AN AREA OF APPLICATION FOR CBMS HAD BEEN AGREED. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO GIVE A FINAL REPLY ON THIS, AND DID NOT WANT TO MISLEAD THE SECRETARY OF STATE. BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT THE SOVIET UNION WERE READY FOR A REASONABLE COMPROMISE. LORD CARRINGTON EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT AND VERIFIABLE CBMS AS AN ESSENTIAL PRELIMINARY TO ANY DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.
4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE THEN MENTIONED THE PHRASE IN THE SOVIET COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE NEED FOR ALL SIDES TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS QUOTE ESPECIALLY OF A MILITARY NATURE UNQUOTE WHICH COULD COMPLICATE THE SITUATION IN THE GULF REGION. HE WOULD NOT REHURSE OUR VIEW OF AFGHANISTAN, WHICH WAS FAMILIAR TO THE AMBASSADOR. THE FACT WAS THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE THEMSELVES CARRYING OUT MILITARY ACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE READY FOR POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT AFGHANISTAN AS WELL. (IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE WAY THIS WAS SAID THAT NO NEW SIGNAL WAS INTENDED).
5. FINALLY LORD CARRINGTON REPEATED THAT HE WOULD STUDY THE TEXT AND THEN GIVE A PROPER ANSWER.
6. HM AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON, PARIS AND ROME CAN HAND OVER A COPY OF THE STATEMENT IN CONFIDENCE, AND SHOULD ASK WHETHER THE AMERICANS, FRENCH OR ITALIANS HAVE HAD ANY SIMILAR APPROACHES. LORD CARRINGTON HAS GIVEN A COPY TO GENSCHER, WHO HAS SO FAR RECEIVED NO SUCH COMMUNICATION FROM THE RUSSIANS.

TAYLOR

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