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PP MOSCOW
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FM F C O 152200Z NOV 82
TO PRIORITY MOSCOW
TELEGRAM NUMBER 676 OF 15 NOVEMBER
INFO PRIORITY COPENHAGEN, WASHINGTON, BONN, PARIS, UKDEL NATO.
INFO SAVING KABUL, BAGHDAD, TEHRAN, ISLAMABAD AND WARSAW.

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S MEETING WITH MR GOMYKO, 15 NOVEMBER.

1. AT THE END OF THE DAY BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE AIRPORT I HAD A THIRTY MINUTE BILATERAL MEETING WITH GROMYKO. HE WAS STUDIOUSLY UNCONTENTIOUS, HAD NOTHING PARTICULARLY NEW TO SAY ON ANY OF THE POINTS I RAISED AND RAISED NONE HIMSELF. AT 73 HE AS NO DOUBT TIRED AFTER THE FUNERAL AND A SERIES OF FOREIGN CALLERS.

2. I REFERRED TO THE CHANGE IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. WE HOPED THAT A MORE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WOULD BECOME POSSIBLE. WHAT CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM THE NEW LEADERSHIP'S INITIAL STATEMENTS. GROMYKO REPLIED THAT ANDROPOV WAS A MEMBER OF THE SAME POLITBURO WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SAME INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES. THE LATTER WOULD BE CHARACTERISED BY PEACE AND DETENTE. THE SOVIET SIDE WAS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDING THE POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. WE SHOULD USE OUR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE POSITIVELY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

3. MR PYM STRESSED THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AND FOR THE MADRID TALKS TO REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. GROMYKO ARGUED THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE ARMS RACE LAY IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH, EVEN IF THEY DID NOT REDUCE, WOULD AT LEAST CHECK ARMS LEVELS. BUT THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA HAD MADE NO PROGRESS, NO HEADWAY. THEY WERE NOT PROCEEDING AS THEY SHOULD IF BOTH SIDES WERE SHOWING

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REAL WILL.

4. MR PYM ASKED IF GROMYKO SAW ANY POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN AFGHANISTAN. HE CLAIMED THAT THE POSITION WAS NOW MORE STABLE. UNOFFICIAL AFGHAN/PAKISTAN TALKS WERE PROCEEDING. IF THE UK WISHED TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WE SHOULD SUPPORT THEM. THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT ITSELF DIRECTLY ENGAGED. THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF NEGOTIATING WITH PAKISTAN, BUT THEY MADE THEIR VIEWS CLEAR AS THEY HAD DONE EARLIER THAT DAY DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN.

5. GROMYKO REFUSED TO HAZARD A GUESS ON WHEN MARTIAL LAW MIGHT BE LIFTED IN POLAND. THE POLISH LEADERSHIP HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN AS SOON AS THE SITUATION RETURNED TO NORMAL. AN END SHOULD BE PUT TO EFFORTS AIMED AT UNDERMINING THE PRESENT REGIME.

6. GROMYKO CLAIMED THAT CURRENTLY IRAN WAS MORE STUBBORN THAN IRAQ IN RESISTING EFFORTS TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END. BOTH SIDES WERE OF APPROXIMATELY EQUAL STRENGTH. UNPREDICTABLE EVENTS COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. BUT BLOOD WAS FLOWING QUITE SENSELESSLY.

PYM

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