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Foreign Pol.

FM MOSCOW 251541Z JAN 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 90 OF 25 JAN

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, UKDEL MADRID,
UKDEL VIENNA

INFO SAYING ALL OTHER NATO POSTS, ALL EAST EUROPEAN POSTS,
PEKING, ULAN BATOR

UNITED STATES AND ARMS CONTROL: SOVIET COMMENT

SUMMARY

1. THE SOVIET PRESS HAVE USED THE HALF-WAY MARK IN PRESIDENT REAGAN'S TERM OF OFFICE TO DIRECT A SERIES OF SHARP ATTACKS ON THE US ADMINISTRATION'S RECORD AT HOME AND ABROAD, INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, ARMS CONTROL. THESE HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY FREQUENT QUOTATION FROM THE AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN PRESS.
2. ON THE OTHER HAND A MINOR SOVIET NEWSPAPER HAS REJECTED ANY INTERMEDIATE SOLUTION.

DETAIL

3. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE THE SOVIET PRESS HAVE SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THE BANKRUPTCY OF REAGAN'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES. ON THE EXTERNAL SIDE THE FOLLOWING THEMES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED:

(A) THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION REFLECTS THE MOST REACTIONARY AND AGGRESSIVE CIRCLES OF AMERICAN MONOPOLY CAPITAL. THEIR UNCOMPROMISING IDEOLOGY HAS OVERTAKEN POLITICAL REALISM.

(B) FOREIGN POLICY FAILURES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY GREAT. BASING ITSELF ON WRECKING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ARMAMENTS, AND PREPARATIONS FOR NUCLEAR WAR, US FOREIGN POLICY HAS DANGEROUSLY AGGRAVATED THE WORLD SITUATION.

(C) THE "IMPULSIVE AND ILL THOUGHT-OUT" ACTIONS OF THE US AND NATO (PRAVDA 23 JANUARY) CONTRAST WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S SERIOUS AND PEACE-LOVING APPROACH.

(D) REAGAN, WHO HAS STRESSED THE NEED FOR PRESSURE AND FIRMNESS AT THE GENEVA ARMS CONTROL TALKS, HAS HAD TO FACE PRESSURE OF ANOTHER KIND. "THE PEACE INITIATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST STATES ARE WORKING ON THE POLITICAL CLIMATE AND POPULAR WILL, AND THIS MUST INFLUENCE THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS. THESE INITIATIVES ARE WORKING MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MORE STRONGLY THAN BEFORE. HERE, AS IT WERE, ARISES A NEW QUALITY" (IZVESTIA 23 JANUARY). THE US ADMINISTRATION WAS INCREASINGLY OUT OF TOUCH WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND EVEN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION WHICH HAS NONETHELESS FORCED IT TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN GENEVA.

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(E) TALK OF A SOVIET THREAT HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ABSURD LENGTHS.

COMMENTING ON REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE TO MARK HIS MID-TERM, PRAVDA OF 23 JANUARY SAID THAT THE ''BOSS OF THE WHITE HOUSE'' JUSTIFIED HIS INTENTION TO DEPLOY NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE AGAIN BY A LIE. THE ASSERTION IN THE WHITE HOUSE REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF REAGAN'S FIRST TWO YEARS IN OFFICE THAT THE US WAS WORKING FOR SUBSTANTIAL AND VERIFIABLE CUTS IN WEAPONS DOWN TO EQUAL LEVELS WAS ''MENDACIOUS''. (TASS FROM WASHINGTON 21 JANUARY).

4. THE SOVIET PRESS HAVE DELIGHTED IN REPORTING THE DISMISSAL OF ROSTOW AND OTHER CASUALTIES OF THE US ADMINISTRATION. IZVESTIA OF 21 JANUARY CHARACTERISED ROSTOW'S DEPARTURE AS THE FIRST REAL US REACTION TO SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT PEACE INITIATIVES AND ROSTOW, NO DOVE HIMSELF, AS THE VICTIM OF SUPER-HAWKS IN THE ADMINISTRATION. ON ADELMAN AND EMERY, IZVESTIA, RELYING EXCLUSIVELY ON QUOTATIONS FROM AMERICAN AND WEST EUROPEAN NEWSPAPERS, SUGGESTED THAT THEY BELONGED TO THE FAR RIGHT. ''THE CONFIDENCE OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN WASHINGTON IS IN REALITY IN NO WAY INCREASING''.

5. FALIN, THE FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BONN , AND UNTIL RECENTLY DEPUTY HEAD OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, HAS MARKED HIS DEBUT AS POLITICAL OBSERVER FOR IZVESTIA WITH A LONG ANALYSIS ON 20 JANUARY OF THE PENTAGON'S AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL'S DEFENCE DIRECTIVE FOR 1984/1988. THIS CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT US POLICY CONTAINED THE ORGANIC DEFECT OF ADVENTURISM, RESULTING FROM EXTREME CONCEIT. ''WHATEVER ATTACKING STRENGTH IS POSSESSED, WHATEVER MEANS OF UNLEASHING NUCLEAR WAR IS CHOSEN, IT WILL NOT SECURE ITS ENDS. RETRIBUTION WILL FOLLOW INEVITABLY - THIS WARNING BY THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP REMAINS IN FORCE AND MUST BE UNDERSTOOD PRECISELY AS IT WAS GIVEN''.

6. ONLY ONE NEW ELEMENT HAS RECENTLY EMERGED IN OTHERWISE ROUTINE, BUT EXTENSIVE, SOVIET PRESS HANDLING OF START AND INF. MOSCOW NEWS ON 23 JANUARY (ADDRESSED MAINLY TO A FOREIGN READERSHIP) SAID THAT FOR INF A SO-CALLED INTERMEDIATE SOLUTION, WHEREBY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ITS MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE WHILE THE AMERICANS WOULD DEPLOY A SMALLER NUMBER OF ITS PROPOSED 572 NEW MISSILES, WOULD NOT REPRESENT A COMPROMISE. ''IT DEMANDS OF THE SOVIET UNION A BASIC REJECTION OF THE SUBSTANCE AND PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL SECURITY. AN INTERMEDIATE AGREEMENT IS THEREFORE ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIET UNION''.

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7. THE U.S. AMBASSADOR HERE INTERPRETS THIS CAMPAIGN AS SIMPLY AN ELEMENT IN, AND A MEANS TO, ACHIEVING THE OVERALL SOVIET OBJECTIVE OF FRUSTRATING DEPLOYMENT OF INF IN WESTERN EUROPE.

HEADS OF MISSION SECTION PLEASE MAKE AVAILABLE TO SIR I. SUTHERLAND.

FCO PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES

RATFORD

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