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UK/SOVIET POLITICAL DIRECTOR TALKS, 28 MARCH: BILATERAL ISSUES

1. WESTON HELD TALKS WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ADAMISHIN ON 28 MARCH. HE BEGAN BY UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANCE TO US OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THE FORTHCOMING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS WERE IMPORTANT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT, BUT THEY ALSO PRESAGED A CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE HOPED IN THE 1990S TO BUILD A DIFFERENT TYPE OF PARTNERSHIP BASED ON COOPERATION. HE HAD COME TO MOSCOW TO GAIN A SENSE OF SOVIET CONCERNS, SO THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRIME MINISTER COULD START THEIR DISCUSSION WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF THESE.
2. ADAMISHIN RESPONDED THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS INDEED PASSING THROUGH WHAT COULD BE DESCRIBED AS A HONEYMOON. THE SOVIET UNION HOPED THAT THIS WOULD LAST A VERY LONG TIME INDEED. THE IMPROVEMENT IN ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS WAS PART OF AN OVERALL PICTURE. THE SOVIET UNION WAS TRYING TO RECONSTRUCT THEIR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE SAME SPIRIT AS THEY WERE RESTRUCTURING THEIR SOCIETY.
3. WESTON SAID THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT ON 9-12 APRIL. HE WAS COMING AS SHEVARDNADZE'S GUEST. WE HAD HOWEVER HEARD FROM BONN THAT SHEVARDNADZE MIGHT BE INVITED THERE ON 11 APRIL FOR THE CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE CSCE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE. ADAMISHIN CONFIRMED THAT SHEVARDNADZE HAD BEEN INVITED, BUT SAID THAT HE HAD TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION BECAUSE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT. THAT WAS THE LATEST POSITION AND ADAMISHIN DID NOT EXPECT IT TO CHANGE BETWEEN NOW AND THE VISIT.
4. WESTON ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT IN JUNE WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH OTHER HIGHLEVEL ENGAGEMENTS OF MR GORBACHEV. ADAMISHIN SAID IT DID NOT.
5. ADAMISHIN ASKED WHEN WE ENVISAGED SIGNING THE THREE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WAITING FOR SIGNATURE. WESTON SAID WE THOUGHT THE NUCLEAR SAFETY AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SIGNED WHEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS IN MOSCOW, AND THE AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL CENTRES COULD WAIT UNTIL THE PRIME MINISTER CAME. THE TIMING OF SIGNATURE OF THE LONG TERM CULTURAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION

BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. ADAMISHIN ASKED IF WE HAD HAD FURTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT A JOINT DOCUMENT TO BE SIGNED DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. HE INDICATED THAT THIS WAS AN EXPLORATORY QUERY ONLY, AND THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS. WESTON SAID THAT THINKING IN LONDON WAS AT AN EARLY STAGE. USPENSKY ASKED WHETHER WE FORESAW THERE BEING WORKING GROUPS IN ADVANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT. WESTON REPLIED THAT WE WOULD WISH TO SEE HOW THE EXPERIMENT WORKED DURING THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT, BEFORE TAKING A DECISION ABOUT JUNE

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