

PP ATHENS

PP BRUSSELS

PP COPENHAGEN

PP THE HAGUE

PP LISBON

PP LUXEMBOURG

PP MADRID

PP OSLO

PP OTTAWA

PP REYKJAVIK

PP ROME

RR TFC RELAY

GPS 240

UNCLASSIFIED

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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

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INFO PRIORITY ANKARA ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LISBON
LUXEMBOURG MADRID OSLO OTTAWA REYKJAVIK ROME AND BMG BERLIN

MBFR: NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS.

1. IN HIS SPEECH TO THE FEDERAL GERMAN PARLIAMENT THIS AFTERNOON, PRESIDENT REAGAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON MBFR (RE-TRANSLATED FROM GERMAN TEXT AS PUT OUT BY NEWS AGENCIES):

STARTS. IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE WITHIN OUR ALLIANCE ON HOW BEST THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE GIVEN A FRESH STIMULUS. AS A RESULT OF THESE DELIBERATIONS, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE VIENNA TALKS WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCING A PROPOSAL UNDER WHICH BOTH ALLIANCES WOULD MUTUALLY REDUCE THEIR GROUND FORCES TO AN OVERALL TOTAL OF 700,000, AND GROUND AND AIR FORCES COMBINED TO 900,000.

EVEN IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT CANNOT WHOLLY REMOVE THE THREAT AND RELIEVE OUR CITIZENS OF THE BURDEN OF SUSTAINING SIZEABLE FORCES, IT WOULD, NEVERTHELESS, BE A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS SECURITY IN EUROPE, BOTH EAST AND WEST. IT COULD LEAD TO MILITARY STABILITY AT LOWER LEVELS AND REDUCE THE DANGERS OF MISCALCULATIONS AND SURPRISE ATTACKS. IT WOULD ALSO BE A SIGN OF BOTH ALLIANCES' POLITICAL WILL TO ENHANCE STABILITY THROUGH LIMITATIONS ON THEIR FORCES IN THE CENTRAL AREA OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

THE WEST HAS SET A NUMBER OF CLEAR GOALS. WE IN THE ALLIANCE WILL PRRSS ON WITH OUR PLANS TO IMPROVE OUR CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE PROPOSING AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD EQUALISE CONVENTIONAL FORCES AT A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER LEVEL. ENDS.

TAYLOR

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