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GRS 300

SECRET

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FM WASHINGTON 052259Z OCT 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2887 OF 5 OCTOBER

AND TO MODUK (AUS (D STAFF) AND DS17)

INFO IMMEDIATE BONN (FOR CARTLEDGE),

Lead - full.

PRIORITY UKDEL NATO PARIS

INF

1. THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOLD US TODAY THAT IN GENEVA THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN CONTINUING TO THREATEN TO INTERRUPT THE NEGOTIATIONS. KVITSINSKY QUOTE OFFERED UNQUOTE YESTERDAY TO LET THE AMERICANS HAVE THE SOVIET FIGURES FOR THE COUNTER-DEPLOYMENT THEY WOULD UNDERTAKE IN RESPONSE TO US INF DEPLOYMENT. THOUGH ONE OR TWO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED, THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE SERIOUS PROBING OF THE NEW ALLIED POSITION. THE RUSSIANS HAVE AGREED TO SCHEDULE TWO TO FOUR FURTHER MEETINGS BEYOND 12 OCTOBER, BUT APPEARS TO BE LEAVING OPEN THE OPTION OF INTERRUPTING OR DOWNGRADING THE TALKS AT SOME TIME TOWARDS THE END OF OCTOBER. THE AMERICANS CONTINUE TO THINK IT ON BALANCE UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BREAK THEM OFF ALTOGETHER.

2. IN THE SCG MEETING, BURT WILL DISCUSS OTHER POSSIBLE SOVIET PLOYS, INCLUDING ONE VAGUE HINT FROM BOVIN AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN QUOTE BUILD-DOWN UNQUOTE PROPOSAL IN THE FORM OF AN OFFER TO RETIRE BUT NOT DESTROY SS20'S IN THE EUROPEAN PARTS OF THE SOVIET UNION DOWN TO 162 MISSILES IF THERE IS A MORATORIUM ON WESTERN DEPLOYMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN OF ANY GIVE IN THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES I.E. ACCEPTANCE OF SOME WESTERN DEPLOYMENT AND THE EXCLUSION OF ALLIED SYSTEMS

WRIGHT

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