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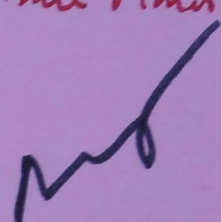
FM F.C.O. 221932Z JAN 80

TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 45 OF 22 JANUARY

INFO IMMEDIATE ROME (FOR BULLARD),

INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, ALL OTHER NATO POSTS.

Ami Amati


SAKHAROV

1. MR LUCE SUMMONED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR THIS EVENING TO EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND MYSELF, THE GOVERNMENT'S ANXIETY AND DISTRESS AT REPORTS THAT SAKHAROV HAD BEEN ARRESTED. SAKHAROV WAS A RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL FIGURE AND A NOBEL PRIZE WINNER. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DEEPLY DEPLORE ANY ACTION CONCERNING SAKHAROV WHICH DID NOT ACCORD WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND ITS PROVISIONS CONCERNING FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. MR LUCE CONTINUED THAT, IN ASKING LUNKOV TO REPORT WHAT HE HAD SAID TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, HE HAD IN MIND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN BRITISH/SOVIET SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND ALSO THAT A CSCE SCIENTIFIC FORUM WAS DUE TO START IN HAMBURG IN A MONTH'S TIME. MR LUCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ARREST OF SAKHAROV, FOLLOWING THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SOVIET DISREGARD FOR GENUINE DETENTE.

2. NEWS DEPARTMENT ARE ANNOUNCING THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS CONVERSATION.

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