

SECRET

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GRS 445

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FM FCO 041425Z DECEMBER 81
TO IMMEDIATE UKDEL MADRID
TELEGRAM NO 64 OF 4 DECEMBER
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO UKREP BRUSSELS PARIS BONN
WASHINGTON ROUTINE OTHER NATO POSTS AND DUBLIN

*h-a.
10/12*

YOUR TEL. NO. 108: CSCE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES IN MADRID

1. WE NOTE THE CONSENSUS DEVELOPING AMONG DELEGATIONS IN MADRID THAT A LONG ADJOURNMENT MAY BE INEVITABLE. WE UNDERSTAND HOWEVER FROM THE GERMANS TODAY (TELECON VON STADEN/ BULLARD) THAT GENSCHER CONTINUES TO BE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE WEST TAKING ANY INITIATIVE TO PROPOSE SUCH AN ADJOURNMENT. HIS ARGUMENT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HE PUT FORCEFULLY TO KAMPELMAN IN BONN, IS THAT THE EAST IS ON THE DEFENSIVE IN MADRID AND THAT WE HAVE NO REASON TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO ESCAPE FROM THIS POSITION. GENSCHER IS THEREFORE SAID TO BE IN FAVOUR OF PROPOSING ONLY A SHORT CHRISTMAS BREAK, AND CONTINUING IN JANUARY. HE IS LIKELY TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH HIS NATO COLLEAGUES AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 10/11 DECEMBER AND WISHES THE MATTER TO BE KEPT OPEN UNTIL THEN.
2. AS PRESIDENCY WE NEED NOT AND SHOULD NOT TAKE A LEAD IN ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER. MY TEL. NO. 63 GIVES VIEWS ON FINNISH CDE TEXT. WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO MAKING A REAL EFFORT TO TESTING YET AGAIN WHETHER THE RUSSIANS ARE PREPARED TO COMPROMISE, EVEN THOUGH ON THE BASIS OF THE FINNISH TEXT THIS MAY BE UNLIKELY. WE WOULD NOT WISH THERE TO BE ANY GROUNDS FOR LATER ASSERTIONS THAT WE HAD ALLOWED THE CHANCE OF AN AGREEMENT ON CDE TO SLIP AWAY. FOR THE SAME REASONS WE SHOULD SHOW WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE UP TO THE LAST MOMENT. THIS ARGUES FOR EXTENDING THE WORK PROGRAMME TO 18 DECEMBER.
3. AS TO THE UNITED STATES, THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY EAGLEBURGER IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION HERE ON 3 DECEMBER WAS THAT MADRID IS SOME WAY DOWN THE AMERICAN LIST OF PRIORITIES AND THAT THERE WOULD BE STRONG RESISTANCE TO CONTINUING

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IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHRISTMAS UNLESS IT COULD BE SHOWN THAT A BALANCED AND COMPREHENSIVE FINAL DOCUMENT WAS ALMOST WITHIN OUR GRASP. WE URGED THE NEED FOR DIRECT US-FRG CONTACTS TO TRY TO RECONCILE POSITIONS ON THIS POINT.

4. ON THE SOVIET UNION, EAGLEBURGER CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE STANDING ON PAST POSITIONS, SHOWING NO MARKED INTEREST AND LEAVING IT TO OTHERS TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE FOR A LONG ADJOURNMENT. THIS IS ALSO THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING (BUCHAREST TEL NO. 223).

5. IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SUBJECT MAY COME UP IN THE MARGINS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL AS WELL AS AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING, WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR DAILY SITREPS FROM YOU FROM 7 TO 11 DECEMBER INCLUSIVE, REPEATED TO UKREP BRUSSELS ON 7 AND 8 DECEMBER AND TO UKDEL NATO THEREAFTER.

CARRINGTON

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CSCE GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

November 27, 1981

Georgi P. Vins

H. P. Vins

"WE ARE STRONG WHEN WE ARE DEFENSELESS"

(Elkhart, IN)--Alarm was expressed by all those who participated in a recent Christian conference in West Germany at the news from the USSR that Evangelical Christian Baptist Pastor Yakov Grigorievich SKORNYAKOV is suffering from an acute form of stomach cancer. Pastor Skornyakov, age 53, is among 120 Baptists currently imprisoned for religious activities.

The conference, "Voice of the Persecuted Church," held in the city of Hamm, was convened to mark the twentieth anniversary of the beginning of the spiritual revival in the USSR (1961-1981). Nearly 3000 Christians, most of whom are recent Russian-German emigres from the Soviet Union, gathered to remember and pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. Many at the conference had been imprisoned in Soviet labor camps before emigrating to West Germany. Being well-aware of the condition of beloved Pastor Skornyakov, they not only felt compassion but also were moved to act in his defense. Skornyakov, arrested in 1978 and sentenced to five years in labor camp and confiscation of personal property, is being held in a strict regime labor camp in Dzhambul, Kazakhstan. Despite his poor health, the camp administration forces Skornyakov to do heavy physical labor. He urgently needs an operation and the attention of a skilled physician.

The conference participants in Hamm sent a letter to the Soviet government in which they expressed deep concern for the plight of Christians persecuted for their faith and doomed by atheistic authorities to physical extermination. Through West German Chancellor Herr Schmidt the conference participants presented to Soviet President Brezhnev an urgent written request for Skornyakov to undergo surgery in a West German hospital, and that he be accompanied to West Germany by his wife.

Pastor Skornyakov, an evangelist for the Council of ECB Churches, visited

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hundreds of persecuted churches in various parts of the country with his fiery sermons about Jesus Christ. Young people are particularly fond of listening to Yakov Skornyakov preach. He dedicated all of his time to Christian young people and unselfishly gave to them from the depths of his heart. He frequently burst out in song in the middle of his sermons, singing about the joy of loving the Lord and trusting in Him.

For many years Skornyakov was pastor of the unregistered ECB Church in Dzhambul which has about 100 young people from the ages of 15-30 who zealously love the Lord.

But atheistic authorities in the USSR cruelly persecute active Christians, particularly those who witness to children and young people. In 1966 Skornyakov, an active youth worker, was arrested and sentenced to five years ordinary regime labor camp. After his release in 1971 he once again continued his Christian ministry.

In 1978 he was imprisoned again, but he still continues to witness about God. Recently, in Skornyakov's labor camp, five convicts accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Atheistic authorities fear any kind of spiritual revival amongst the prisoners and the camp administration has cruelly punished the new converts by placing them in isolation and depriving them of the right to correspond and meet with their relatives. They have threatened Skornyakov with another trial and another term in confinement.

Nevertheless, the little church in this labor camp continues to thrive spiritually and to glorify Christ.

In a letter from camp Skornyakov writes:

"If we are prepared to serve others and do good to everyone, then we should do it willingly out of love as Christ did and not out of compulsion. And with regard to our vulnerability, nobody has a more solid defense than the sincere Christian.

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We don't need knives, pistols or any other weapons. Just as long as our God, the God of love and peace, is with us, we are strong even when we are defenseless. We are strong even in death, so that we are able to pray for our tormentors and executioners. We do not seek vengeance against them nor do we utter curses against them in futile bitterness and despair, but we ask the God of love to forgive them, as did Christ on the cross and Stephen, the first martyr for Christ."

We ask that you pray for Pastor Skornyakov. Send him a card or letter with words of encouragement and comfort. His wife and nine children would appreciate your message of concern.

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Kazakhstan
SOVIET UNION

Home address:

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For more information about Christians in the Soviet Union, contact:

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