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FROM MOSCOW 100530Z NOV 82

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 670 OF 10 NOVEMBER

INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO, WASHINGTON AND MODUK(FOR DI 3)

INFO SAVING PARIS, BONN, PEKING, ULAN BATOR, HANOI, UKMIS GENEVA
UKDEL VIENNA, UKMIS NEW YORK AND ALL EASTERN EUROPEAN
POSTS.

THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION.

1. THIS WAS CELEBRATED IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER, THE CENTRE-PIECE BEING THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PARADE THROUGH RED SQUARE ON 7 NOVEMBER. BREZHNEV, FLANKED BY MOST OF THE MOSCOW-BASED POLITBURO AND SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE NINETY MINUTE MARCH-PAST. HE GAVE A SHORT SPEECH AT THE KREMLIN RECEPTION WHICH FOLLOWED TO WHICH AMBASSADORS WERE INVITED WITH LEADING FIGURES OF THE SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT. ALTHOUGH IN QUITE GOOD VOICE, HE LOOKED FRAIL AND BY THE TIME IT WAS MY TURN TO BE INTRODUCED, HE DID NOT APPEAR TOO AWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON AROUND HIM. NO-ONE WAS ENCOURAGED TO ENGAGE HIM IN CONVERSATION.

2. KIRILENKO, ONCE GENERALLY REGARDED AS BREZHNEV'S SUCCESSOR, WAS ABSENT FROM THE PARADE AND HIS PORTRAIT DID NOT APPEAR ON THE PLACARDS. I THINK THAT WE CAN TAKE THIS AS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT, FOR WHATEVER REASON, HE HAS BEEN DROPPED FROM THE LEADERSHIP. ANOTHER POLITBURO MEMBER, THE 83-YEAR OLD PELSHE, WHO IS USUALLY PRESENT ON THESE OCCASIONS, WAS ALSO ABSENT: BUT HE FEATURED ON THE PLACARDS. COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR, CHERNENKO AND ANDROPOV BOTH MOVED UP FOUR PLACES IN THE LINE-UP ON THE LENIN MAUSOLEUM WITH ONLY TIKHONOV (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) BETWEEN THEM AND BREZHNEV.

3. THREE MAJOR SPEECHES WERE MADE DURING THE CELEBRATIONS: BY GRISHIN POLITBURO MEMBER AND HEAD OF THE MOSCOW PARTY ORGANISATION AT THE CELEBRATORY CEREMONY IN THE KREMLIN ON 5 NOVEMBER; BY USTINOV POLITBURO MEMBER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE FROM THE ROSTRUM AT THE 7 NOVEMBER PARADE; AND THAT BY BREZHNEV AT THE SUBSEQUENT

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RECEPTION . THE COMMON FEATURE OF THE PASSAGES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WAS THE APPEARANCE , IN MORE OBVIOUS COUNTERPOINT THAN IN THE PAST , OF A "TWO TRACK" APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. THIS STRESSED IN ALMOST THE SAME BREATH A COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND DETENTE AND A DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY PREPAREDNESS OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES , WITH, IN THE CASE OF GRISHIN AND USTINOV , FULSOME REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV'S SPEECH TO SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS ON 27 OCTOBER (MY TELNO 643) WHICH WAS ALSO FEATURED IN ALL THE PRESS AND TELEVISION COMMENTARIES. BREZHNEV , WITHOUT NAMING THE UNITED STATES , SAID THAT "INEVITABLY A SHATTERING RETALIATORY BLOW" AWAITED A POTENTIAL AGGRESSOR AND THAT SOVIET MIGHT AND VIGILANCE WOULD "COOL THE OVER-HOT HEADS OF CERTAIN IMPERIALIST POLITICIANS" . BUT HE QUICKLY FOLLOWED THIS BY A STATEMENT , EXPRESSLY ADDRESSED TO THE FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES , OF SOVIET PEACEFUL INTENTIONS. GRISHIN AND USTINOV REFERRED TO SOVIET EFFORTS TO REACH UNDERSTANDING AT THE ARMS-CONTROL TALKS IN GENEVA , THE FORMER ADDING THAT , IF THE ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY BY THE DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE OF "HUNDREDS OF NEW AMERICAN NUCLEAR ROCKETS" OR BY ANY OTHER MEANS , THE SOVIET UNION WOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES IN RESPONSE. GRISHIN AND USTINOV BOTH PUT THE MAIN BLAME ON THE UNITED STATES FOR THE "COMPLICATIONS" IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WHICH WAS DEPICTED IN MORE ALARMIST TERMS THAN LAST NOVEMBER .

4. HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS WAS REPRODUCED IN PRAVDA ON 8 NOVEMBER , TOGETHER WITH THOSE FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND THE FRG. THE INDIAN, ETHIOPIAN AND CHINESE MESSAGES WERE PRINTED THE PREVIOUS DAY AND MORE PROMINENTLY THAN LAST YEAR , IN COMPANY WITH THOSE FROM THE EAST EUROPEANS. THE CHINESE MESSAGE WAS IN SIMILAR TERMS TO LAST YEAR BUT MY CHINESE COLLEAGUE ATTENDED THE PARADE AND GRISHIN MADE A PROMINENT REFERENCE IN HIS SPEECH TO THE IMPORTANCE OF NORMALISING SINO/SOVIET RELATIONS "WITHOUT ANY DAMAGE TO OTHER COUNTRIES" - PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO VIET-NAM. I WAS ALSO STRUCK BY THE FUSS MADE BY THE RUSSIANS OF THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR AT THE KREMLIN RECEPTION.

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5. GRISHIN'S SPEECH CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE ON POLAND, NOTABLE FOR THE OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT IN WARSAW . " THE POLISH PEOPLE HAVE REAL FRIENDS AND ALLIES. THEY FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT POLISH COMMUNISTS AND ALL THE SUPPORTERS OF SOCIALISM IN POLAND WILL OVERCOME COUNTERREVOLUTION , DEFEND PEOPLE'S POWER AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS, AND ENSURE THE STABLE AND GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY ALONG THE PATH OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION " .
6. THE MILITARY COMPONENT IN THIS YEAR'S PARADE WAS NO GREATER THAN IN RECENT YEARS. THE ONLY EQUIPMENT WHICH MY SERVICE ATTACHES NOTED ON DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS A STANDARD ARMoured PERSONNEL-CARRIER WITH A NEW TURRET AND CANNON AND A NEWER VERSION OF THE SAB AIR-DEFENCE MISSILE SYSTEM.
7. OBSERVERS OF THE PARADE CAME AWAY WITH AN IMPRESSION OF A RATHER PERFUNCTORY OCCASION, REINFORCED BY THE RUSH OF MANY SOVIET SPECTATORS TO GET OUT OF RED SQUARE AS SOON AS THE SHORTER MORE DRAMATIC MILITARY PART WAS OVER .
8. FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

SUTHERLAND

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

FCO/WHITEHALL
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**THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED**

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