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DESKBY 051615Z SEPTEMBER

FROM MOSCOW 051545Z SEPTEMBER

TO IMMEDIATE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 973 OF 5 SEPTEMBER

SOVIET UNOFFICIAL PEACE MOVEMENT .

MEYER'S TELELETTER 81/4 OF 25 AUGUST TO EESD.

1. MEMBERS OF THE UNOFFICIAL PEACE MOVEMENT WERE APPARENTLY ARRESTED ON 5 SEPTEMBER WHILE EN ROUTE TO THE EMBASSY TO COLLECT THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO REITMAN.

2. REITMAN HAD TELEPHONED AND ARRANGED TO CALL AT THE EMBASSY AT 1300 HRS TO COLLECT THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER. HE DID NOT SHOW UP. AT 1615 HRS MEDVEKOV, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP, RANG THE EMBASSY TO SAY THAT REITMAN, TOGETHER WITH MEDVEKOV'S WIFE, OLGA, ROSENAUR AND BUDKIN HAD BEEN ARRESTED NEAR THE EMBASSY AT 1300 HRS. BUDKIN TELEPHONED AN HOUR LATER, SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN RELEASED BUT THAT THE OTHERS WERE STILL BEING HELD.

3. REUTERS HAD SIMULTANEOUSLY RECEIVED SIMILAR TELEPHONE MESSAGES. WE HAVE CONFIRMED IN ANSWER TO PRESS ENQUIRIES THAT WE WERE EXPECTING REITMAN, THAT HE HAD NOT TURNED UP, THAT THE APPOINTMENT WAS TO COLLECT A REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE LETTER SENT BY THE DOVERIYA GROUP IN JUNE.

4. WE ONLY HAVE MEDVDDKOV'S AND BUDKIN'S WORD FOR IT (MEMBERS OF CHANCERY WAITED FOR HALF AN HOUR BY THE EMBASSY GATES AND SAW NOTHING UNTOWARD). IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE INDEED DETAINED BY THE KGB. I PROPOSE TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH THE MFA, COMPLAINING AT THE PREVENTION OF REITMAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP FROM CARRYING OUT AN APPOINTMENT MADE AT THE EMBASSY IN ORDER TO COLLECT A LETTER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.

SUTHERLAND

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