

RESTRICTED

PS TO PM . 10, DOWNING ST.

RESTRICTED

FROM MOSCOW 040645Z OCTOBER

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1119 OF 4 OCTOBER

INFO ROUTINE UKDEL NATO AND WASHINGTON

## SOVIET ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATION.

1. AN OFFICIALLY-SPONSORED AND CAREFULLY ORGANISED DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW ON 1 OCTOBER . WE ESTIMATE THAT 100 - 200 THOUSAND PEOPLE ( THOUGH PRAVDA CLAIMED IT WAS 800,000) MARCHED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION AND ASSEMBLED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THE CITY TO HEAR SPEECHES. THERE WERE NO DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE EMBASSIES, ALTHOUGH SOME COLUMNS OF MARCHERS WENT PAST THE U.S. EMBASSY AND SHOUTED SLOGANS AS THEY DID SO. AMONG THE NUMEROUS PLACARDS THERE WAS NO UNDUE EMPHASIS ON ANTI - U S OR NATO THEMES. TWO OF THE MAIN SLOGANS WERE " NO NEW MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE " AND " REDUCE THE EXISTING ARSENALS ".
2. THE DEMONSTRATORS ISSUED A SHORT STATEMENT, CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN THE PRESS. THIS WAS MAINLY FOCUSED ON INF AND BROUGHT IN REFERENCES BOTH TO BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSILES AND TO SOVIET COUNTER-MEASURES.
3. IN PARALLEL WITH THE ABOVE , THE SOVIET PRESS HAVE PUBLISHED LETTERS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. A MAIN THEME OF THESE HAS BEEN THAT THE SOVIET UNION 'S STRIVING FOR PEACE DOES NOT REFLECT WEAKNESS AND THAT IT HAS THE WHEREWITHAL TO REBUFF ANY AGGRESSOR. THE PRESS HAVE ALSO INCREASED THEIR COVERAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE MOVEMENT, GIVING THE SOVIET READER THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS NOW IN FULL CRY.
4. THE TIMING OF THE DEMONSTRATION SO SOON AFTER ANDROPOV'S STATEMENT ON U S FOREIGN POLICY ( MY TELNO 1091) IS , AS EVER, NO COINCIDENCE. THE INTENTION APPEARS TO BE TO SET THE STATEMENT FIRMLY AGAINST THE BACKGRROUND OF THE SOVIET UNION'S " PEACE CAMPAIGN ".

RATFORD

LIMITED  
DEFENCE D  
ACDD  
→ EED Sov D  
NAD  
WED  
PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR WRIGHT  
MR CARTLEDGE  
MR JAMES

ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION  
START

COPIES TO  
MR PASCALL NO 10 DOWNING STREET

RESTRICTED