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YOUR TEL NO 1481: **REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM: EAST-WEST
RELATIONS, DEFENCE AND ARMS CONTROL**

SUMMARY

1. **EMPHASIS ON CONTINUING NEED FOR US STRENGTH. ANTI-SOVIET TONE.** REFERENCES TO THE NEED FOR US **QUOTE TECHNOLOGICAL UNQUOTE AND QUOTE QUALITATIVE UNQUOTE SUPERIORITY.** BUT NO REPETITION OF THE 1980 CALL FOR OUTRIGHT **QUOTE US MILITARY SUPERIORITY UNQUOTE OVER THE SOVIET UNION. AND BALANCING PASSAGES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ARMS CONTROL AND DESIRABILITY OF STABLE AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.**

DETAIL

2. THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM APPROVED IN DALLAS ON 21 AUGUST DEFINES THE PURPOSE OF US FOREIGN POLICY AS TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM IN A PEACEFUL INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT, WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES SECURE AGAINST MILITARY THREATS AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES ENJOYING INCREASING PROSPERITY.

3. THE PLATFORM REAFFIRMS THE 1980 PRINCIPLE THAT THE US NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY SHOULD BE ONE OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH, TO BE ACHIEVED BY MAINTAINING US TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY, DESCRIBED AS THE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION OF DETERRENCE. THE US SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE **QUOTE TO STRIVE FOR QUALITATIVE SUPERIORITY UNQUOTE...** **QUOTE IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS US MARITIME FORCES UNQUOTE.** EVERYTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT, IN CASE OF CONFLICT, THE UNITED STATES WOULD CLEARLY PREVAIL. **QUOTE WE SHALL KEEP THE PEACE BY KEEPING OUR COUNTRY STRONGER THAN ANY POTENTIAL ADVERSARY UNQUOTE.**

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

4. THE **QUOTE PROFOUND MORAL DIFFERENCE UNQUOTE BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND MARXIST/LENINISM, AND BETWEEN CAPITALISM AND STATE-DOMINATED ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, IS STRESSED THROUGH OUT THE PLATFORM.** THE SOVIET UNION'S **QUOTE GLOBALIST IDEAOLOGY AND ITS LEADERSHIP OBSESSED WITH MILITARY POWER MAKE IT A THREAT TO FREEDOM AND PEACE ON EVERY CONTINENT UNQUOTE.** THE PLATFORM DECLARES **QUOTE SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE AND ALL CAPTIVE NATIONS WHO STRUGGLE DAILY AGAINST THEIR SOVIET MASTERS ... WE ARE NOT NEUTRAL IN THEIR STRUGGLE. UNQUOTE**

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5. THE PLATFORM ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES, HOWEVER, THAT STABLE AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE QUOTE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE UNQUOTE. MAINTAINING THE CREDIBILITY OF AMERICAN STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION IS SEEN AS A PRECONDITION: THE WANING OF US POWER IN THE 1970S WAS EXPLOITED BY THE RUSSIANS: A RESURGENCE SINCE 1980 IS SEEN AS A MAJOR REAGAN ACHIEVEMENT, PROVIDING THE RIGHT BASIS FOR A BETTER EAST/WEST WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

6. **ARMS CONTROL**

THE PLATFORM STRESSES THAT US MILITARY STRENGTH EXISTS TO DETER CONFLICT, NOT INITIATE WAR. WHILE CONTINUING TO MODERNISE THE US DETERRENT CAPABILITY, THE US WILL ALSO NEGOTIATE FOR VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL, WHICH QUOTE THOUGH NOT AN END IN ITSELF CAN BE A MAJOR COMPONENT OF A FOREIGN AND DEFENCE POLICY WHICH KEEPS AMERICA FREE, STRONG, AND INDEPENDENT. UNQUOTE. THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS DESCRIBED AS ALREADY PURSUING, WITH FLEXIBILITY AND FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH, ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS THAT WOULD REDUCE THE LEVEL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY POSSESSED BY THE SUPERPOWERS. BUT AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOT BE SOUGHT AT ANY PRICE, AND MUST BE FULLY VERIFIABLE, AND CONTAIN SUITABLE SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. THE SOVIET UNION IS SAID TO HAVE ENGAGED IN A SUSTAINED PATTERN OF VIOLATION OF EXISTING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, THEREBY CASTING SEVERE DOUBT ON ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AND COMPLY WITH NEW AGREEMENTS IN A SPIRIT OF GOOD FAITH.

NATO

7. THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE 40 YEARS AFTER D-DAY IS DESCRIBED AS QUOTE A LONG WATCH, BUT A SUCCESSFUL ONE UNQUOTE. THE PLATFORM POINTS OUT THAT THE US WOULD BE IN MORTAL DANGER WERE WESTERN EUROPE TO COME UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION, AND THAT THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS A KEY SOVIET OBJECTIVE. QUOTE THE UNITED STATES AGAIN LEADS THE ALLIANCE BY OFFERING HOPE OF A SAFER FUTURE. AS AMERICA'S STRENGTH IS RESTORED, SO IS OUR ALLIES' CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM. UNQUOTE. ON BURDEN-SHARING, THE PLATFORM SAYS ONLY THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO INCREASE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO'S COMMON DEFENCE (A RELATIVELY MILD FORMULATION).

8. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE READINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF US FORCES, AND RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARE STRESSED. THE PLATFORM ALSO CLAIMS - NO DOUBT BECAUSE OF ATTACKS BY MONDALE - THAT GREATER ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN DEFENCE PROCUREMENT. THERE IS A REFERENCE TO INCREASED COOPERATION WITH THE ALLIES, WHICH HAS RESTRICTED TRANSFER OF CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES TO THE SOVIET UNION.

9. **THE PLATFORM EXPRESSES ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR SDI.**

QUOTE RECOGNISING THE NEED FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OUR ALLIES, WE SUPPORT A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTENSIVE EFFORT TO RENDER OBSOLETE THE DOCTRINE OF MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION (MAD) UNQUOTE AND QUOTE REJECT THE STRATEGY OF DESPAIR AND SUPPORT INSTEAD THE STRATEGY OF HOPE AND SURVIVAL UNQUOTE.

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DEFENCE

DEFENCE SPENDING

10. THE PLATFORM DRAWS ATTENTION TO DEFENCE BUDGET INCREASES SINCE 1980, STATES THAT QUOTE WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEVOTE THE RESOURCES ESSENTIAL TO DETER THE SOVIET THREAT UNQUOTE, WHICH IS ALSO SEEN AS GROWING: BUT NOTABLY DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY PLEDGE OR TARGET FOR FUTURE INCREASES. INDEED, IT NOTES, DEFENSIVELY, THAT DEFENCE'S CURRENT SHARE OF TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE IS WELL BELOW EISENHOWER/KENNEDY LEVELS.

INTELLIGENCE

11. THE PLATFORM CONTAINS A PLEDGE QUOTE TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES UNQUOTE ... AND QUOTE REMOVE STATUTORY OBSTACLES TO THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, PERFORMANCE AND SECURITY OF INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS UNQUOTE

COMMENT

12. IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THIS TEXT, WHICH IS PREPARED UNDER PARTY NOT ADMINISTRATION AEGIS, AND IN CONTACT WITH, BUT NOT UNDER CONTROL FROM, THE WHITE HOUSE, SHOULD DIFFER IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC POSITIONS. IT REFLECTS GRASSROOTS FEELINGS IN THE PARTY. BUT IT WOULD IN NO WAY BIND THE PRESIDENT.

13. IN THE AREA OF DEFENCE AND SECURITY THE MAIN SIMILARITY WITH THE 1980 TEXT IS THAT WORLD PROBLEMS ARE AGAIN VIEWED MORE OR LESS EXCLUSIVELY IN TERMS OF SUPERPOWER COMPETITION. THE DOMINANT THEME IS AGAIN THE NEED FOR CONTINUED US MILITARY POWER AND NATIONAL WILL TO MEET THE THREAT OF SOVIET EXPANSIONISM.

14. BUT THERE ARE NOTICEABLE CHANGES C.F. 1980. THE TREATMENT OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS AND ARMS CONTROL IS LESS COMBATIVE. THERE IS NO REFERENCE TO OUTRIGHT MILITARY SUPERIORITY AS AN AIM. SDI APART, THERE IS NO SHOPPING LIST OF FUTURE NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS. THE LANGUAGE ON FUTURE LEVELS OF DEFENCE SPENDING IS CAUTIOUS. AND THERE IS NO ECHO OF THE 1980 REFERENCES TO WESTERN EUROPEAN QUOTE NEUTRALISM UNQUOTE. THE TONE OF THE PASSAGES ON SOVIET BLOC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IS NO MORE THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT, WHILE THERE ARE BALANCING REFERENCES TO ARMS CONTROL AND TO THE DESIRABILITY OF CONDUCTING A STABLE AND PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

15. REPORTS ON REMAINING SECTIONS, AND OVERALL COMMENTS, FOLLOW. FULL TEXT HAS BEEN SENT TO NAD.

FCO PASS SAVING TO ANKARA OTTAWA LISBON OSLO REYKJAVIK MADRID ATHENS BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG THE HAGUE UKREP BRUSSELS

HANNAY

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STANDARD (PALACE)

NAD

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DEFENCE D MR DAVID THOMAS

SOVIET D

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