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FM FCO 091345Z JANUARY 85

TO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW

TELEGRAM NUMBER 028 OF 9 JANUARY 1985

INFO IMMEDIATE LUSAKA (FOR SECRETARY OF STATE'S PARTY), WASHINGTON
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, PARIS, BONN, ROME, UKDIS GENEVA, MODUK
SHULTZ/GROMYKO TALKS: INITIAL SOVIET REACTION

1. KRASNOV (SOVIET COUNSELLOR) CALLED TODAY AT HIS OWN REQUEST
ON THE HEAD OF ACDD TO PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SHULTZ/
GROMYKO MEETING. WE NOTED THAT HMG'S VIEWS COULD BE EXPECTED TO
FOLLOW MCFARLANE'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY. THE
SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD ALSO NO DOUBT WISH TO COMMENT ON HIS
RETURN.

2. KRASNOV, READING FROM PREPARED NOTES, SAID THAT THE SHULTZ/
GROMYKO MEETING HAD BEEN 'A SUCCESS FOR BOTH SIDES', AND
REPRESENTED 'A VERY POSITIVE STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS'
ON TWO COUNTS:

(A) THE REVITALISATION OF THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE
WITH THE US WHICH WAS IMPORTANT FOR EAST-WEST
RELATIONS IN GENERAL:

(B) THE FACT THAT THEY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT TO DISCUSS
INTERMEDIATE AND STRATEGIC NUCLEAR, AND
OUTER SPACE WEAPONS.

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LATTER HE WISHED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN
RESEARCH AND DEPLOYMENT. THE SOVIET UNION WAS PREPARED TO
'ACCEPT THE US WISH' NOT TO DISCUSS RESEARCH IN THE PRESENT
PRELIMINARY STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE SUBJECT OF RESEARCH
SHOULD BE 'BRACKETED'. ON THE OTHER HAND, NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD
CONCENTRATE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF DEPLOYMENT.

3. KRASNOV ALSO ASKED HOW FAR HMG WOULD BE PREPARED TO
CONTRIBUTE, IN TERMS OF OUR OWN NUCLEAR FORCES, TO THE DECLARED

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AIM IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF 'THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS EVERYWHERE'. WE RESPONDED ALONG STANDARD LINES. OUR POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED. THE FIRST STEP WAS FOR THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION TO NEGOTIATE REDUCTIONS IN THEIR OWN FORCES. WE SAW NO ROLE FOR OURSELVES IN THE CURRENT PROCESS.

4. MIFT (NOT TO ALL) REPORTS THE EXCHANGE ON UK/SOVIET POL/MIL TALKS.

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