

RESTRICTED

GR 417

RESTRICTED

FROM MOSCOW 111445Z JANUARY

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 046 OF 11 JANUARY

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO, UKDIS GENEVA
AND MODUK (FOR DS 17).

INFO SAVING TOKYO AND HELSINKI

MY TELNO 41 : SHULTZ/GROMYKO TALKS : SOVIET REACTION.

SUMMARY.

1. NO NEW COMMENT, BUT CONTINUED PUBLICITY FOR GENEVA OUTCOME, WHICH IS WELCOMED IN THIS WEEK'S POLITBURO COMMUNIQUE. REPORT ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CONFERENCE CONTRASTS US READINESS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON STRATEGIC DEFENCE, WITH PLANS TO CONTINUE SDI RESEARCH.

DETAIL.

2. MOST OF THIS WEEK'S BRIEF POLITBURO COMMUNIQUE, PUBLISHED ON 11 JANUARY, IS GIVEN OVER TO THE RESULTS FROM GENEVA. OPINION WAS 'UNANIMOUS' ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT ABOUT THE SUBJECT AND AIMS OF THE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE 'INTERLINKED' QUESTIONS OF SPACE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. I CANNOT RECALL THE APPEARANCE OF THE WORD 'UNANIMOUS' IN POLITBURO COMMUNIQUE BEFORE. I TAKE IT AT FACE VALUE, THAT IT IS THERE FOR STRESS AND TO CONTRAST WITH REPORTED DIVISIONS IN WASHINGTON, RATHER THAN (AS SOME HERE SPECULATE) TO CONCEAL DISCORD. IT WAS ALSO STRESSED THAT ONLY STRICT OBSERVANCE OF WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED, 'IN ITS ENTIRETY', WOULD PROVIDE FOR REAL PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE MAIN THEME OF INTERNATIONAL COMMENT CITED IN PRAVDA OF 11 JANUARY, IS THAT THE GENEVA MEETING WAS 'IMPORTANT, USEFUL AND SATISFACTORY'. THE AGREEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP ON A DIFFICULT ROAD. THE PRIME MINISTER IS REPORTED AS WELCOMING THE AGREEMENT AND QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BRITAIN FULLY SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF PREVENTING AN ARMS RACE AND ENDING IT ON EARTH. MR KINNOCK IS REPORTED AS NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOLDING OF NEW US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS, AND STATING THAT THE AMERICAN AIM OF ACHIEVING NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY OVER THE SOVIET UNION WAS MISTAKEN.

RESTRICTED

/ 4.

RESTRICTED

4. PRAVDA ALSO REPORTED PROMINENTLY PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE (WASHINGTON TELNO 72) PRINCIPALLY HIS COMMENTS ABOUT US/SOVIET DIFFERENCES AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE NEW NEGOTIATIONS , BUT THAT THE U S MUST BE PREPARED TO WORK JOINTLY WHERE POSSIBLE : THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD DEPEND ON BOTH SIDES. MOST OF THE REPORT, HOWEVER, CONCENTRATED ON TRYING TO SHOW UP THE INCOMPATIBILITY ('' LEADING TO CONFUSION'') IN REAGAN'S POSITION , BETWEEN READINESS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON STRATEGIC DEFENCE IN SPACE AND THE INTENTION TO CONTINUE RESEARCH WORK ON THE ''STAR WARS'' PROGRAMME (WHICH, PRAVDA, ADDED BALDLY, UNDERMINED THE ABM TREATY). REAGAN WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TRIED TO AVOID QUESTIONS SUGGESTING THAT A REFUSAL TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME UNTIL AFTER FEASIBILITY STUDIES WERE COMPLETE PUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AT RISK. INSTEAD, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE RESEARCH, AND, DESPITE THE BUDGET DEFICIENCY, HAD NO INTENTION OF CUTTING MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TOKYO AND HELSINKI.

SUTHERLAND

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

[COPIES SENT TO NO 10 DOWNING ST]

EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS

LIMITED

SOVIET D
DEFENCE D
RESEARCH D
PLANNING STAFF
EED
NAD — NEWS D
WED
ACDD
FED
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR RIFKIND

PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
MR DEREK THOMAS
SIR W HARDING
MR FERGUSSON
MR GOODALL
MR JENKINS
MR WESTON
MR DAVID THOMAS

2
RESTRICTED