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FM WASHINGTON 172210Z

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1287 OF 17 APRIL 1985

INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, BONN.

MY TELNO 1228: US/SOVIET REALTIONS AND V E DAY CEREMONIES IN MOSCOW

1. THE MEETING BETWEEN GENERAL OTIS AND GENERAL ZAITSEV ON 12 APRIL IS REGARDED HERE AS HAVING GONE REASONABLY WELL. ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ZAITSEV EXPRESSED HIS 'DEEP PERSONAL REGRET' ABOUT MAJOR NICHOLSON'S DEATH, AND SAID THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO SOVIET TROOPS NOT TO USE ARMS AGAINST US SERVICEMEN. THE US REQUESTS FOR COMPENSATION AND AN APOLOGY HAD BEEN REFERRED TO A POLITICAL LEVEL, AND FURTHER FOLLOW-UP WOULD BE REQUIRED.

2. AT OFFICIAL LEVEL AT LEAST, THE AMERICANS CONSIDER THIS TO BE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.

3. WE HEARD TODAY THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON US PARTICIPATION AT V E DAY CEREMONIES IN MOSCOW HAD BEEN APPROVED, VIZ THAT (A) HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES WILL BE EXCHANGED. (THESE WOULD NOT BE PRENEGOTIATED, BUT WOULD BE SHOWN BY EACH SIDE TO THE OTHER BEFORE PUBLICATION:;) (B) AMBASSADOR HARTMAN WOULD REPRESENT THE US GOVERNMENT AT OFFICIAL CEREMONIES IN MOSCOW, BUT WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT MILITARY FUNCTIONS; AND (C) THE US WOULD NOT ACTIVELY DISSUADE US VETERANS GROUPS FROM GOING TO MOSCOW.

WRIGHT

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EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS

LIMITED

SOVIET D
DEFENCE D
RESEARCH D
PLANNING STAFF
EED
NAD
WED
ACDD
FED
NED
PUSD
FS
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

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