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GRS 353

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DESKBY 091300Z MAY

FM MOSCOW 091200Z MAY 85

TO IMMEDIATE F C C

TELEGRAM NUMBER 676 OF 9 MAY

INFO PRIORITY : WASHINGTON, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO.

YOUR TELNO 469 (NOT TO ALL) : MR HEALEY'S MEETINGS WITH ZAGLYADIN AND ARBATOV

1. IN AN AFTER-SUPPER CONVERSATION AT THE EMBASSY ON 8 MAY, HEALEY REFERRED TO HIS ARMS CONTROL CONVERSATIONS WITH ARBATOV AND ESPECIALLY ZAGLYADIN (MY TELNO 668) AS VERY USEFUL. THERE HAD BEEN NO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF BRITISH AND FRENCH SYSTEMS. ON GENEVA, THE RUSSIANS HAD BEEN DISCREET. THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THEY WERE SPECIALLY OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC FOR THE TALKS, BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE GENUINE BEWILDERMENT AND FRUSTRATION THAT THE AMERICANS ALLEGEDLY WERE NOT STICKING TO THE SPACE COMPONENT OF THE SHULTZ-GROMYKO AGREEMENT.

2. ZAGLYADIN HAD REFERRED TO THE MOST RECENT LETTER FROM REAGAN TO GORBACHEV (MY TELNO. 001 TO BONN), BUT HAD NOT, I THINK REVEALED ITS CONTENT.

3. SPECIFIC POINTS:-

(A) SDI: HEALEY SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS WERE GENUINELY SCARED BOTH BY THE PROSPECTS OF HAVING TO COUNTER OR MATCH SDI, AND BY COMMENTS FROM WEINBERGER (?) THAT SDI WOULD MAKE THE US THE NO. 1 NUCLEAR POWER AGAIN. THE SOVIET ATTACK ON SDI AS BEING A SHIELD FROM BEHIND WHICH TO LAUNCH A FIRST STRIKE WAS THEREFORE NOT JUST PROPAGANDA.

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(E) STRATEGIC WEAPONS AND INF: THE 25% OR MORE SUGGESTION OF REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS WAS REPEATED BUT NOT ELABORATED ON. THE MESSAGE WAS THAT NO REAL BUSINESS COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE DONE ON STRATEGIC/INF WHILE THE US REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY (AS OPPOSED TO MAKING VAGUE ATTEMPTS TO "EXPLAIN" SDI) ON SPACE.

(C) KRASNOYARSK: FOLLOWING DOBRYNIN'S COMMENTS AT THE ATLANTA SEMINAR THE RUSSIANS PROPOSED TO SEND DATA ON THE INSTALLATION TO THE SCC IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. HEALEY IS TO HAVE AN ARTICLE IN THIS SUNDAY'S OBSERVER WITH HIS VIEWS ON SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY, AN AREA IN WHICH HE IS RATHER SCORNFUL OF GORBACHEV'S KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES AS DEMONSTRATED SO FAR.

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