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FM MOSCOW

TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELNO 1499  
OF 150820Z NOVEMBER 85  
INFO IMMEDIATE : WASHINGTON

MY TELNO 1490 AND WASHINGTON TELNO 3135 : SUMMIT PREPARATIONS

1. HARTMAN SAW SHEVARDNADZE AGAIN YESTERDAY EVENING. THE AMERICAN DCM (PLEASE PROTECT) SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD MINISTER THAT THE CALL HAD BEEN AT HARTMAN'S OWN REQUEST. HE HAD HAD NO FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS, BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF CLEARING THESE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON. HIS PURPOSE HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN TO PUT TO SHEVARDNADZE THE ARGUMENTS WHY IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DROP THE IDEA OF TRYING TO ISSUE A JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ACCORDING TO THE AMERICANS HERE, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MARRYING THEIR RESPECTIVE DRAFTS ON SUBJECTS OTHER THAN THE ALL IMPORTANT QUESTION OF ARMS CONTROL, WHICH WAS BEING LEFT BLANK. HARTMAN ARGUED, IN FACE OF STUBBORN RESISTANCE FROM SHEVARDNADZE, THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE ON ARMS CONTROL, WITH THE RESULT THAT WHATEVER MINIMAL WORDING COULD BE ACHIEVED WOULD LOOK LIKE FAILURE. SHEVARDNADZE, WHO STILL STRIKES THE AMERICANS AS UNCERTAIN AND ILL-BRIEFED, HAD EN PASSANT REVEALED THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM GORBACHEV TO TRY TO AGREE, BEFORE THE MEETING, A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE. HE COMMENTED WRYLY THAT THE TWO SYSTEMS OF WORKING WERE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO ONE ANOTHER, IN THE AMERICAN CASE WITH PROPOSALS GOING UP TO THE PRESIDENT, AND IN THE SOVIET CASE WITH INSTRUCTIONS COMING DOWN FROM THE TOP. THE QUESTION REMAINED UNRESOLVED AT THE END OF HARTMAN'S CALL.

2. MEANWHILE, THE AMERICANS TELL US OF SOME PROGRESS ON PERIPHERAL FRONTS. THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOW AT LAST GIVEN WAY ON THE FINAL OUTSTANDING POINT AS REGARDS THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. THIS RELATED TO THE EXCHANGE OF TELEVISION MATERIAL AND THE AMERICANS HAD THEMSELVES BEEN ON THE POINT OF CONCEDING THE POINT WHEN THE RUSSIANS BEAT THEM TO IT. AN AMERICAN TEAM IS THIS WEEK IN KIEV LOOKING AT POSSIBLE NEW BUILDINGS FOR A CONSULAR-GENERAL THERE, IN COUNTERPART TO NEW YORK. THE AMERICANS ARE TRYING TO HARNESS ENERGY GENERATED BY THE IMPENDING SUMMIT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THESE AND OTHER BI-LATERAL DOSSIERS WHICH, THOUGH SUBSTANTIVELY UNRELATED, ARE SUBJECT TO VARIOUS NEGOTIATING LINKS ON EITHER SIDE.

CARTLEDGE

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