

CONFIDENTIAL

FM FCO

TO FLASH UKDEL NATO

● LNO 186

OF 211245Z NOVEMBER 85

AND TO IMMEDIATE MODUK (PS/S OF S, DUS(P), NPS(A), DACU)
AND TO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, MOSCOW

FOLLOWING FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY

MIPT: US/SOVIET SUMMIT: INITIAL VIEWS ON JOINT STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING ARE INITIAL REACTIONS HERE TO THE US/SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT.

2. ON THE SECURITY SIDE, IT IS STRIKING THAT THE TWO LEADERS HAVE ENDORSED THREE OUT OF THE FOUR CAMP DAVID POINTS: NO SEARCH FOR MILITARY SUPERIORITY, THE ENHANCEMENT OF STRATEGIC STABILITY, AND THE NEED TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HOWEVER, ON THE ISSUE OF STRATEGIC DEFENCE RESEARCH (SDI) THEY APPEAR TO HAVE AGREED TO DISAGREE. GORBACHEV'S COMMENTS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, AND THE REFERENCE IN THE JOINT STATEMENT TO 'SERIOUS DIFFERENCES' WHICH REMAIN ON A NUMBER OF CRITICAL ISSUES, 'INDICATE LITTLE SHIFT IN EITHER SIDE'S POSITION. NONETHELESS, THE RUSSIANS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN THE DECISION TO GIVE A NEW IMPETUS TO THE GENEVA PROCESS. IN TERMS OF THEIR PRE-SUMMIT PROPAGANDA THIS MAY REPRESENT A CONCESSION ON THEIR PART.

3. ON THE SPECIFIC ARMS CONTROL AREAS, THE REFERENCES IN THE JOINT STATEMENT TO 50 PER CENT REDUCTIONS, AN INTERIM INF AGREEMENT, AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR VERIFICATION, ARE ALL WELCOME. THE LANGUAGE ON CW AND CDE APPEARS TO REPRESENT PROGRESS, THAT ON MBFR LESS SO. THE REAL INTEREST LIES OF COURSE IN THE DETAIL OF THE PAST TWO DAYS DISCUSSIONS. BUT AT FIRST GLANCE, THE JOINT STATEMENT APPEARS TO INDICATE RESULTS WITH WHICH THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE SATISFIED.

4. THE REFERENCE IN THE JOINT STATEMENT TO SERIOUS DIFFERENCES PRESUMABLY APPLIES TO REGIONAL AS WELL AS ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. EXCHANGES ON REGIONAL ISSUES ARE TO BE REGULARISED, (WHICH IS WELCOME). BUT THERE IS NO SUGGESTION IN THE JOINT STATEMENT OF A MEETING OF MINDS ON THIS AREA. THE LANGUAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PARA 3 (IX) OF MIPT) IS VERY THIN, SUGGESTING SOVIET RESISTANCE TO US PRESSURE.

HOWE

What do they have in mind about centres for reduction of reduce nuclear risk-taking?