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UKDEL NATO TEL NO 295, US/SOVIET SUMMIT, PRESIDENT REAGAN'S

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REPORT TO CONGRESS

SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT REAGAN DESCRIBES SUMMIT AS
A FRESH START, WHICH ACHIEVED NO MEETING OF MINDS, BUT BETTER
PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF A QUOTE NEW
REALISM UNQUOTE IN US/SOVIET RELATIONS. FRANK TALKING,
ESPECIALLY ON SDI AND REGIONAL ISSUES. WHILE THE SOVIET
UNION WOULD NOT CHANGE OVERNIGHT, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO
PEACEFUL COMPETITION. THE US WAS READY FOR STEP BY STEP PROGRESS,
AND THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN WORTHWHILE FOR BOTH SIDES.
NO NEW DETAILS.

DETAIL

2. THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED CHEERS AND AN OVATION OF SEVERAL
MINUTES WHEN HE ARRIVED TO REPORT ON THE SUMMIT IN A NATIONALLY
TELEVISED ADDRESS TO CONGRESS TONIGHT. HE THANKED CONGRESS AND
THE ALLIES FOR THEIR FULL-HEARTED SUPPORT, WHICH WAS CRUCIAL TO
SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE POLICIES OF HIS
ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD MADE AMERICA STRONG AGAIN MUST BE
CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE.
3. THE MEETING HAD PRODUCED A FRESH START - NOT A MEETING OF
MINDS ON IDEOLOGY OR NATIONAL PURPOSE - BUT A BETTER PERSONAL
UNDERSTANDING AND PERSPECTIVE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. GORBACHEV
HAD BEEN AN ELOQUENT SPEAKER AND GOOD LISTENER, AND THEIR MEETINGS
HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE. BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, ONE COULD HAVE
NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE USSR, BUT IT WAS VITAL TO
ENSURE THAT COMPETITION REMAINED PEACEFUL. CANDID DIALOGUE WAS
ESSENTIAL.

ESSENTIAL.

4. ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL,

THE SUMMIT HAD MADE QUOTE A MEASURE OF PROGRESS UNQUOTE. (APPLAUSE) THE GENEVA NEGOTIATORS WERE INSTRUCTED TO HASTEN THEIR WORK ON ACHIEVING 50 PERCENT CUTS IN APPROPRIATE CATEGORIES OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS AND AN INTERIM INF AGREEMENT, LEADING, HE HOPED, TO THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF INTERMEDIATE WEAPONS. THESE SHOULD INCLUDE TOUGH VERIFICATION PROVISIONS (APPLAUSE). DISCUSSION ON SDI HAD PRODUCED A VERY DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. GORBACHEV HAD EXPRESSED A FEAR THAT THE US MIGHT USE SDI TECHNOLOGY TO PUT OFFENSIVE WEAPONS INTO SPACE. HE HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE PROJECT WAS CONCERNED ONLY WITH NON-NUCLEAR DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS, AND THAT IF RESEARCH WERE SUCCESSFUL, THE RESULTS WOULD BE SHARED. THE US WAS A DEFENSIVE NATION, AND ONE OF HIS AIMS WAS TO ELIMINATE FIRST-STRIKE CAPABILITY. HE HAD PROPOSED A RECIPROCAL PROGRAMME FOR OPEN LABORATORIES ON SDI RESEARCH.

5. THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED THEIR AGREEMENT TO HOLD A DIALOGUE ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS WHILE MOVING TO BAN THEM ALTOGETHER (APPLAUSE), AND GIVE A BOOST TO MBFR, AND CDE, AND TO BEGIN WORK ON RISK REDUCTION CENTRES.

6. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED HIS PROPOSALS FOR SOLVING REGIONAL CONFLICTS (APPLAUSE).

CONFLICTS AROSE WHERE REGIMES DID NOT REPRESENT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. SOVIET EXPANSIONISM WAS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE. THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM, WHILE BEING PREPARED TO TALK TO THE SOVIET UNION IN A SEARCH FOR POLITICAL SOLUTIONS.

7. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PRESIDENT SAID SIMPLY THAT HISTORY TAUGHT THAT COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECTED THE RIGHTS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE TENDED TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THEIR NEIGHBOURS, THIS WAS THEREFORE A PEACE ISSUE.

8. THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF FURTHER MEETINGS WITH GORBACHEV IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW ALSO DREW APPLAUSE. HE HOPED THAT THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE INITIATIVES WHICH THEY HAD DISCUSSED WOULD BREAK DOWN STEREOTYPE AND PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO PROPAGANDA. THE AGREEMENT ON NEW CONSULATES WOULD CREATE A PERMANENT US PRESENCE IN THE UKRAINE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES. (APPLAUSE) REFERRING BRIEFLY TO THE PACIFIC AIR SAFETY AGREEMENT, HE SAID QUOTE WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE SHOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN UNQUOTE.

9. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THAT THE RESULTS HAD BEEN WORTHWHILE FOR BOTH SIDES. PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE UNREALISTIC OR IMPATIENT FOR RESULTS. BUT THE US WAS READY FOR STEP BY STEP PROGRESS.

COMMENT

10. THE ACCLAIM WAS BOTH FOR THE MAN AND HIS PERFORMANCE AND FOR THE SUBSTANCE OF WHAT HE SAID. BUT MEDIA COMMENT SO FAR, WHILE MORE RESERVED, HAS ALSO GENERALLY ACCOUNTED THE MEETING A SUCCESS IN TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OWN OBJECTIVES. THE FACT THAT FURTHER MEETINGS HAVE BEEN AGREED IS THOUGHT LIKELY TO EXERT A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON NEGOTIATIONS. THE VALUE OF THIS SUMMIT WILL ONLY BE JUDGED OVER TIME. BUT THE NEXT MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE MORE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

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