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POLITBURO DISCUSSION OF THE GENEVA SUMMIT RESULTS

SUMMARY

1. THE GENEVA SUMMIT WAS APPARENTLY THE ONLY ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF A POLITBURO MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT WERE APPROVED. NO NEW POINTS EMERGED, BUT STRESS WAS LAID ON ARMS CONTROL, AND IN THIS CONTEXT THE 'ORGANIC LINK' BETWEEN NON-MILITARISATION OF SPACE AND NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS REITERATED.

DETAIL

2. THE POLITBURO 'FULLY APPROVED GORBACHEV'S WORK, THE RESULTS ACHIEVED AND THE JOINT STATEMENT'. THE SUMMIT COULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON CHANGING THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A DIALOGUE FOR IMPROVING US/SOVIET AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.
3. GENEVA HAD REAFFIRMED THE CORRECTNESS OF SOVIET SECURITY INITIATIVES. US/SOVIET RELATIONS WOULD BE DETERMINED BY SECURITY ISSUES WHOSE CORE WAS THE PREVENTION OF SPACE MILITARISATION AND REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS 'IN THEIR ORGANIC CONNECTION'. THE PROPOSALS OF BOTH SIDES HAD 'COINCIDING POINTS' AND MADE POSSIBLE A SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECISIONS ON RADICAL NUCLEAR CUTS 'ON THE CONDITION OF A BAN ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE STRIKE WEAPONS'. THE CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE A COVER-UP FOR THE ARMS RACE. THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO IMPLEMENT THE JOINT STATEMENT AND EXPECTED THE SAME FROM THE US ADMINISTRATION.
4. IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CONTINUE UNSWERVINGLY ON THE BASIS OF EVERY NATION HAVING THE 'SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO GO ITS OWN WAY AND CHOOSE ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES BY ITSELF'. 'THE CORRECTNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF POLICY IS DETERMINED BY ABILITY

TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE REALITY OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD ... AND TO SUBORDINATE THE RESOLUTION OF CONTENTIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MAIN GOAL - PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR''.

5. THERE WERE NO CONTRADICTIONS MAKING US/SOVIET CONFRONTATION INEVITABLE. PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED ONLY THROUGH STRICT OBSERVATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL SECURITY, AND WITHOUT DAMAGING THE INTERESTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES. PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DETERMINED SOVIET RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US.

COMMENT

6. FOR A POLITBURO MEETING TO BE GIVEN OVER TO ONLY ONE SUBJECT UNDERLINES THE IMPACT OF THE SUMMIT HERE, AND THE TWO-FOLD MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET AUDIENCE:

1) THE START OF A NEW DIALOGUE AND POTENTIAL FOR BETTER US/SOVIET RELATIONS:

11) THE UNCHANGING IMPORTANCE OF ARMS CONTROL, SPECIFICALLY ON THE BASIS OF THE SHULTZ/GROMYKO JANUARY AGREEMENT.

7. IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE THE REITERATION OF THE "ORGANIC LINK" FORMULA WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED TEMPORARILY FOLLOWING THE SOVIET SUGGESTION OF A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON INF. ITS REAPPEARANCE HELPS TO EMPHASISE THE POINT THAT STRATEGIC CUTS (IF NOT, AS BEFORE, ALL NUCLEAR CUTS), ARE DEPENDENT ON THE NON-MILITARISATION OF SPACE.

8. THE REFERENCE TO THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO CHOOSE THEIR FRIENDS AND ALLIES, WHILE NOT NEW (GORBACHEV USED THIS PHRASE THOUGH WITHOUT THE WORD "ALLIES", IN HIS STATEMENT AT HIS GENEVA PRESS CONFERENCE ON 21 NOVEMBER) APPEARED ODDLY IN THIS CONTEXT. ONE EXPLANATION, NOT NECESSARILY DEFINITIVE, IS THAT THIS REPRESENTS A SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE US ACCUSATION THAT REGIONAL CONFLICTS HAVE SOVIET ORIGINS. FROM THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW THE IRONY DISAPPEARS IF ONE ASSUMES THAT THE EAST EUROPEANS HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR "CHOICE" OF FRIENDS: AS FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD. IT IS US INTERFERENCE THAT IS TRAMPLING ON INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.

CARTLEDGE

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