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OF 051420Z FEBRUARY 87

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VISIT BY US COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: MEETING
WITH GORBACHEV

SUMMARY

1. GORBACHEV RECEIVED A HIGH-POWERED DELEGATION FROM THE US COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON 4 FEBRUARY. HE SEEMS TO HAVE ADDRESSED THEM IN VERY GENERAL TERMS ON THE US/SOVIET RELATIONSHIP GIVING NO HINTS OF CHANGES IN SOVIET POLICY, INCLUDING ON ARMS CONTROL. HIS AIM SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TO GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE OF SOVIET GOOD FAITH IN FOREIGN POLICY, AS A FUNCTION OF THE FAR-REACHING INTERNAL CHANGES IN SOVIET SOCIETY. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE REFERRED TO THE RESUMPTION OF TESTING.

DETAIL

2. PRAVDA OF 5 FEBRUARY REPORTED THAT THE US DELEGATION, COMPRISING INTER ALIA (LAST TWO WORDS UNDERLINED) PETERSON, BROWN, VANCE, KIRKPATRICK, KISSINGER, MATHIAS AND HYLAND, SAW GORBACHEV ON 4 FEBRUARY. THEY HAD SEEN YAKOVLEV AND PETROVSKY ON 3 FEBRUARY.

3. GORBACHEV SAID THAT A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY RESTED WITH THE SUPERPOWERS EVEN THOUGH THEY REPRESENTED ONLY ABOUT 10% OF MANKIND. HE CONDEMNED ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE SUPERIORITY AND CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD DRAWN SERIOUS LESSONS IN THE SPHERES OF ECONOMY, SCIENCE AND RELATIONS WITH THE WEST FROM EXPERIENCE OF SUCH POLICY DIRECTED TOWARDS ITSELF. THE DEVELOPMENT OF US/SOVIET RELATIONS SO FAR WAS UNWORTHY OF THE SUPERPOWERS. THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT LAY CLAIM

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TO THE ULTIMATE TRUTH IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY PROPOSALS AND WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS. IT TOOK ACCOUNT OF OTHERS' INTERESTES BUT IN AMERICA THERE WERE FORCES WHICH NEEDED THE SOVIET UNION FOR AN "IMAGE OF THE ENEMY" AND USED THE MEDIA TO SOW HATRED TOWARDS THE SOVIET PEOPLE. "US/SOVIET RELATIONS ARE STILL FOR THE TIME BEING AT A CROSSROADS AND WE MUST FIND IN OURSELVES THE WILL AND STRENGTH TO ACHIEVE A TURN-ROUND. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO CO-EXISTENCE. IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER WE LIKE EACH OTHER OR NOT. THAT IS OUTSIDE POLITICS..... THE SOVIET PEOPLE WILL NOT BUILD THEIR SOCIETY ACCORDING TO RECIPES FROM OUTSIDE". THE US/SOVIET RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN MANY DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL AND HUMAN CONTACTS.

4. ON DISARMAMENT, AGREEMENTS WERE POSSIBLE. PAST ACHIEVEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE DESTROYED. IT WAS NECESSARY TO GO FORWARD FROM REYKJAVIK. "IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK, WITHOUT PROCRASTINATION, ON THE WHOLE COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS, TO GO HALFWAY AND TO SHOW READINESS FOR COMPROMISES... AND IT IS NECESSARY TO RENOUNCE IDEAS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS MORE INTERESTED IN AN IMPROVEMENT IN US/SOVIET RELATIONS THAN THE US."

5. GORBACHEV DESCRIBED THE ESSENCE OF PERESTROIKA AS MORE SOCIALISM AND MORE DEMOCRACY. IT WAS NOT A RENUNCIATION OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM (ON WHICH NOBODY SHOULD BE COUNTING) BUT A FULL USE OF ITS POTENTIAL. SOVIET SOCIETY WAS RIPE FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES. "WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN OUR COUNTRY IS THE MOST CONVINCING, OBJECTIVE ARGUMENT THAT IT NEEDS A PEACEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY". GORBACHEV CONCLUDED WITH THE EXHORTATION TO MOVE TOWARDS EACH OTHER ON THE BASIS OF AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EVENTS, AND COMMONSENSE.

COMMENT

6. THE MEETING WITH GORBACHEV BILLED AS THE EXPECTED HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT WAS SET UP AT SHORT NOTICE TOWARDS THE END OF THE TEAM STAY WHEN SEVERAL OF THEM WERE ALREADY CONCERNED THAT THEIR TREATMENT HAD NOT MET EXPECTATIONS. GORBACHEV'S REMARKS AS REPORTED SUGGEST THAT ONE OBJECTIVE WAS TO CONVINCCE THE VISITORS OF THE LINK BETWEEN SOVIET INTERNAL RESTRUCTURING AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY PROPOSALS. HE APPEARS TO HAVE AVOIDED THE DETAILS OF ARMS CONTROL AND ALTHOUGH HIS REMARKS INCLUDED A ROUTINE WARNING OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF SPACE

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WEAPONS FOR SECURITY, IT IS STRIKING THAT THERE WAS NO REFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO THE LATEST US NUCLEAR TEST.

7. BY CONFINING HIMSELF TO THE BROADER ASPECTS OF THE US/SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, GORBACHEV GAVE NO CLUES EITHER ON CHANGES IN HIS POLICY BEYOND REASSERTING THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROCRASTINATION, NOR ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PROGRESS IN THE ARMS CONTROL FIELD.

8. THE PUBLISHED REPORT MAKES NO REFERENCE TO ANYTHING SAID BY ANY OF THE VISITORS.

9. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER ANYTHING OF INTEREST FROM AMBASSADOR HARTMAN ONCE THE DELEGATION HAS LEFT.

HEMANS

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EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS
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