

IMMEDIATE

US/SOVIET ARMS CONTROL TALKS/ EAST WEST & US/SOVIET RELATIONS

PS
PS/Mrs Chalker
PS/LADY YOUNG

MR POWELL No.10 DOWNING STREET ✓

PS/MR RENTON

MR D NICHOLLS DUS(P)

PS/PUS

NPS

MR THOMAS

DACU

MR BOYD

CDI

MOD

MR RATFORD

MR FALL

MR FEARN

~~MR~~

HD/DEFENCE DEPT

HD/ACDD

HD/SOVIET DEPT

HD/EEED

RESIDENT CLERK

[PLEASE ADD HD/NAD IF EAST/WEST DIST]



19.11:8

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PRAGUE

TO DESKBY 111100Z FCO

TELNO 101

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INFO IMMEDIATE MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO

INFO ROUTINE BUDAPEST, WARSAW, BUCHAREST, BELGRADE, SOFIA,

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, BONN, EAST BERLIN.

GORBACHEV VISIT: SECOND DAY: SPEECH TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK - SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

(RESIDENT CLERK TO PASS PARA 6 TO ACDD DUTY OFFICER).

SUMMARY

1. GORBACHEV'S SPEECH THE MAJOR VISIBLE FEATURE OF HIS SECOND DAY HERE, WHICH WAS OTHERWISE TAKEN UP WITH AN INDUSTRIAL VISIT AND PARTY TO PARTY TALKS.

2. SPEECH TOUCHED ON THREE MAIN SUBJECTS: REFORM IN THE SOVIET UNION, RELATIONS AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ARMS CONTROL.

DETAIL

3. GORBACHEV'S ONE HOUR SPEECH AT THE PALACE OF CULTURE ON 10 APRIL THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY POINT IN HIS SECOND DAY PROGRAMME.

4. PASSAGE ON SOVIET RESTRUCTURING SEEMED ALONG NORMAL LINES. SOVIET UNION PORTRAYED AS A COUNTRY OF SHARP CONTRASTS OF SOPHISTICATION AND BACKWARDNESS. DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY WAS THE MAIN PANACEA.

5. ON BILATERAL AND SOCIALIST COUNTRY RELATIONS MAIN POINTS WERE:
(A) PRAISE FOR CZECHOSLOVAK ACHIEVEMENTS 'A NATIONAL ECONOMY REMARKABLE FOR ITS STABILITY, RID OF FOREIGN DEBT'. 'A STANDARD OF LIVING, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE... WHICH STANDS COMPARISON WITH THE HIGHEST WORLD STANDARDS', BUT 'PROBLEMS AND SHORTCOMINGS EXIST' WHICH WERE DISCUSSED 'OPENLY AND FRANKLY'.

(B) A 'CONVICTION THAT THE PROCESS OF RESTRUCTURING IN THE SOVIET UNION CORRESPONDS TO THE ESSENCE OF SOCIALISM'. SOVIET RESOLVE TO REALISE TASKS OF 27TH CONGRESS AND JANUARY CC MEETING 'REINFORCED BY THE SUPPORT OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES'.

(C) POLITICAL RELATIONS AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SHOULD BE 'ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE SOVIET UNION

(C) POLITICAL RELATIONS AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SHOULD BE "ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT ASKING ANYONE TO COPY THEM, EACH SOCIALIST COUNTRY HAD ITS OWN SPECIFIC FEATURES AND FRATERNAL PARTIES WERE CONTINUING THEIR POLITICAL LINE WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL CONDITIONS. PROBLEMS WHICH WERE A PRIORITY FOR THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALREADY BEEN SOLVED IN OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, OR WERE BEING SOLVED BY THEM IN THEIR OWN WAY. NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND A SPECIAL POSITION IN THE SOCIALIST WORLD. THE INDEPENDENCE OF EACH PARTY...ITS RIGHT TO SOLVE THE QUESTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, ARE UNCONDITIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR US." AT THE SAME TIME SUCCESSES ARE NOT POSSIBLE "WITHOUT THE CONCERN OF EACH PARTY... FOR COMMON INTERESTS, WITHOUT RESPECT FOR THEIR FRIENDS AND ALLIES". LATER, REPEATING THE SAME DUALITY IN OTHER WORDS, HE SAID "NO PARTY HAS A MONOPOLY ON TRUTH".

(D) TALKING OF THE NEED FOR CLOSER INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION HE ADMITTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT ENTERPRISES WAS "A VERY DIFFICULT TASK", AND HE MENTIONED THE NEED FOR CMEA WIDE AGREEMENT ABOUT PRICES, WAGES, MANAGEMENT AND INCOME.

6. ON ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, THE PRINCIPLE POINTS WERE:

(A) PROPOSAL TO START TALKS ON THE REDUCTION AND LATER ELIMINATION OF MISSILES OF 500 TO 1000 KM RANGE DEPLOYED ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT, AND NOT TO LINK THIS WITH "COURSE AND RESULT" OF MEDIUM RANGE MISSILE TALKS. FOR THE PERIOD OF THE TALKS, BOTH SIDES WOULD PLEDGE NOT TO INCREASE NUMBERS OF OPERATIONAL - TACTICAL MISSILES.

(B) HE CONFIRMED THAT, AFTER A MEDIUM RANGE MISSILE TREATY WAS SIGNED, AND INDEPENDENTLY OF THE OPERATIONAL TACTICAL MISSILE DISCUSSIONS, THE RUSSIANS WOULD REMOVE MISSILES DEPLOYED IN THE GDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF PERSHING TWO AND CRUISE MISSILES IN W. EUROPE.

(C) HE DETAILED SOME "IMPORTANT MEASURES" OF VERIFICATION BY ON-SIGHT INSPECTION.

(D) HE SUGGESTED A BROAD DISCUSSION AT VIENNA BY CSCE FOREIGN MINISTERS "AIMED AT RADICAL REDUCTION OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR, MILITARY FORCES AND CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS".

(E) HE SUPPORTED THE CZ/GDR NUCLEAR CORRIDOR PROPOSAL (MENTIONING WEST GERMAN SPD HELP IN FORMULATING IT).

(F) ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS, HE ANNOUNCED 1) SOVIET PRODUCTION HAD NOW CEASED, 2) THE USSR HAD NO STORES OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BEYOND ITS BORDERS, 3) A SPECIAL PLANT IS BEING BUILT IN THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF ALL THEIR CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

7. IN A SEPERATE PASSAGE ON EUROPE WIDE COOPERATION, HE CALLED ON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO WORK AGAINST TERRORISM, CRIME, DRUG ABUSE AND "SUCH A NEW DISASTER WHICH HAS AFFLICTED THE WHOLE OF MANKIND AS AIDS".

COMMENT

8. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE IS DUE TO ISSUE ON 13 APRIL. I WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO DRAW TOGETHER THE THREADS OF THIS INTERESTING VISIT UNTIL WE HAVE SEEN THAT, AND GORBACHEV'S VISIT TO SLOVAKIA IS OVER. MEANWHILE ENGLISH TEXTS OF GORBACHEV'S SPEECH FOR YOU AND MOSCOW WILL BE IN OUR 13 APRIL UNCLASSIFIED PAG.

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