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US/SOVIET RELATIONS

1. ARMACOST TOLD ME ON 29 JUNE THAT THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN SHULTZ AND SHEVARDNADZE, WHICH HAS LONG BEEN FORESEEN FOR JULY, IS NOW LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE ON 14-15 JULY, IN WASHINGTON. THE US HAD PUT TWO SETS OF DATES (9/10 JULY AND 14/15 JULY) TO THE RUSSIANS SOME TIME AGO. THE RUSSIANS HAD NOT YET RESPONDED: THE EARLIER DATES WERE NOW EFFECTIVELY TOO CLOSE, SO THE LATER DATES LOOKED MORE LIKELY.

2. IF SHEVARDNADZE DOES ACCEPT 14/15 JULY HE WILL OF COURSE BE IN WASHINGTON JUST BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S OWN VISIT. STATE TELL US THAT THEY EXPECT A DEFINITE RESPONSE FROM THE RUSSIANS THIS WEEK.

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