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FM MOSCOW

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MOSCOW SUMMIT DAY TWO: 30 MAY

SUMMARY

1. GORBACHEV EXPRESSES IRRITATION AT CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE. THE WORKING SESSIONS ARE DEVOTED TO ARMS CONTROL. THE PRESIDENT MEETS DISSIDENTS AND REFUSENIKS AT SPASO HOUSE AND VISITS THE DANILOV MONASTERY. SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES TAKES A MUCH SHARPER TURN.

DETAIL

2. THE SECOND DAY OF THE MOSCOW SUMMIT CONTINUED IN WHAT BOTH SIDES DESCRIBED AS A CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE (BUT ONE COOLED BY DIFFERENCES, OVER HUMAN RIGHTS. AT THE KREMLIN BANQUET GORBACHEV SAID FIRMLY THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE SHOULD BE EXPANDED 'BUT THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT INTERFERING IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, WITHOUT SERMONISING OR IMPOSING ONE'S VIEWS OR WAY OF LIFE, AND WITHOUT TURNING FAMILY OR PERSONAL PROBLEMS INTO A PRETEXT FOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN STATES'. HE QUOTED REAGAN'S OWN WORDS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES IS TO UNDERSTAND THEM. HE WELCOMED EFFORTS MADE BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO UNDERSTAND THE SOVIET UNION BUT CAUTIONED THAT 'EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO DO BUSINESS WITH US WILL FIND IT USEFUL TO KNOW HOW SOVIET PEOPLE SEE THEMSELVES'. WHILE PROCLAIMING A PROGRAMME OF MORE DEMOCRACY, MORE GLASNOST' AND MORE SOCIAL JUSTICE, HE GAVE EQUAL WEIGHT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF MAN, THE INDIVIDUAL, AND SOCIETY. THE REST OF HIS SPEECH WAS TAKEN UP WITH FAMILIAR REFERENCES TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING ECONOMIC SECURITY, AND THE NUCLEAR THREAT.

3. IN REPLY THE PRESIDENT STRUCK A CONCILIATORY NOTE. HE WELCOMED THE FIRST STEPS WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN IN CUTTING NUCLEAR

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ARSENALS. HE SAID THAT THE VISION OF FREEDOM AND COOPERATION ENSHRINED IN THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT REMAINED UNREALISED. NONETHELESS BOTH SIDES HAD GOT INTO THE HABIT OF LOOKING FOR AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND HAD FOUND MORE THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

WORKING SESSIONS

4. THE DAY'S WORKING SESSION BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO QUESTIONS OF ARMS CONTROL. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH GORBACHEV, THERE WERE SEPARATE SESSIONS FOR SHUTLZ AND SHEVARNADZE, AND FOR YAZOV AND CARLUCCI. IN BRIEFING THE PRESS BOTH SPOKESMEN TRIED TO EMPHASISE THOSE AREAS OF THE AGENDA ON WHICH THEIR COUNTRY HAD BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING. FITZWATER SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AGAIN OFFERED TO SHARE THE FRUITS OF SDI RESEARCH. GERASIMOV SCOFFED AT THE THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO MUCH.

5. THE RUSSIANS CLAIM TO HAVE PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR A STEP BY STEP REDUCTION IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS IN EUROPE, BEGINNING WITH A COMPREHENSIVE DATA EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE WARSAW PACT AND NATO. CLEARLY THE KEY START ISSUES ARE PROVING DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE, ESPECIALLY SEA-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES. NONETHELESS SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENTS ON EARLY NOTIFICATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILE TEST FIRINGS AND THE CONDUCT OF A JOINT VERIFICATION EXPERIMENT.

HUMAN RIGHTS

6. THE PRESIDENT BEGAN HIS AFTERNOON BY VISITING THE DANILOV MONASTERY, THE NEWLY-RESTORED HEADQUARTERS OF THE MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE. HE SAID THAT THE FAITH OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE HAD BEEN TESTED AND TEMPERED IN THE CRUCIBLE OF HARDSHIP. AMERICANS SHARED THE HOPE THAT THE RETURN OF THE DANILOV MONASTERY WAS NOT AN END IN ITSELF BUT THE SYMBOL OF A NEW POLICY OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE THAT WOULD EXTEND TO ALL PEOPLES OF ALL FAITHS. HE SPOKE UP FOR BELIEVERS OF ALL CREEDS INCLUDING THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC AND ORTHODOX CHURCHES. HE HOPED THAT PERESTROIKA MIGHT BE ACCOMPANIED BY A 'DEEPER RESTRUCTURING, A CHANGE IN HEART, AND THAT GLASNOST' WHICH MEANS GIVING VOICE WILL ALSO LET LOOSE A NEW CHORUS OF BELIEF SINGING PRAISE TO THE GOD THAT GAVE US LIFE'. HE FINISHED HIS REMARKS WITH A LONG QUOTATION FROM ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN. ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET MEDIA, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH TOLD HIM THAT THE PEOPLE AND CHURCH WERE UNITED

IN SUPPORT FOR PERESTROIKA AND THAT MANY OF THE QUESTIONS HE HAD RAISED HAD ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED WITH THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT.

7. SUBSEQUENTLY THE PRESIDENT MET A SELECTED GROUP OF REFUSENIKS AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. HE TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD ARGUED THE CASE DURING THE SUMMIT FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF TRAVEL. HE HAD RAISED THE CASES OF SOME PEOPLE WHO HAD FORMERLY WORKED ON 'SECRETS' AND CALLED FOR A RATIONAL REVIEW OF SUCH CASES. HE HAD ALSO CALLED FOR INSTRUMENTAL CHANGES TO MARK THE PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE PERMANENT.

8. THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING AT SPASO HOUSE HAS ATTRACTED SHARPLY ADVERSE COMMENT IN THE SOVIET MEDIA. THE MAIN EVENING NEWS DEVOTED 10 MINUTES (INCLUDING FILM) TO THE MEETING AND QUESTIONED WHY THE PRESIDENT HAD CHOSEN TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION FROM SUCH AN UNREPRESENTATIVE AND UNWORTHY GROUP. GRIGORYANTS WAS DESCRIBED AS A 'SPECULATOR IN FINE ART' AND WE WERE REMINDED THAT GORBACHEV TOLD THE WASHINGTON POST THAT GRIGORYANTS RECEIVED MONEY FROM ABROAD. THERE WAS FURTHER SHARP CRITICISM OF THE LEADERS OF THE TRUST GROUP AT THE RECEPTION. THERE WAS ANOTHER HYSTERICAL COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA, WHERE IT WAS NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S GUESTS 'ADDRESSED EACH OTHER AS LADIES AND GENTLEMEN' RATHER THAN COMRADES. OTHER REPORTS INCORPORATED PERSONAL ATTACKS ON OGORODNIKOV, TIMOFEEV AND OTHERS.

9. THE VISITING CAMPAIGNERS FOR INDIAN RIGHTS CONTINUE TO ENJOY GREAT PROMINENCE ON SOVIET TV AND IN THE PRESS. THEIR ALLEGED DIFFICULTIES IN PRESENTING THEIR CASE TO THE PRESIDENT ARE BEING DIRECTLY CONTRASTED WITH HIS MEETINGS WITH SOVIET DISSIDENTS. THE ISSUE SEEMS LIKELY TO BE PLAYED BACK TO THE PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THE SUMMIT.

EXTERNALS

10. VARIOUS EVENTS CONTINUE TO BE ARRANGED IN THE MARGINS OF THE SUMMIT, INCLUDING YET ANOTHER REUNION FOR THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN TROOPS WHO MET ON THE ELBE IN 1945. MRS PAPANDEOU, HER 'WOMEN FOR A PRODUCTIVE SUMMIT' AND THE GREEK PEOPLE HAVE PRESENTED AN UGLY STATUE REPRESENTING PEACE TO THE SOVIET CULTURAL FUND. MRS GORBACHEVA RECEIVED IT ON BEHALF OF THE

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FUND. SHE THANKED THE GROUP FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE SUMMIT
PROCESS. MEANWHILE MRS REAGAN VISITED ONE OF THE SHOWPIECE SCHOOLS
IN MOSCOW AND SANG ALONG WITH ONE OF THEIR ENGLISH CLASSES.
OUR IMPRESSION IS STILL THAT THE ORDINARY MUSCOVITE IS FOLLOWING
THE SUMMIT FROM A DISTANCE, ONLY NOTICING IT WHEN HIS SCHEDULE
IS DISRUPTED BY ROAD CLOSURES.

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