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FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 2610
OF 282107Z OCTOBER 88
INFO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO, BONN, PARIS, MOSCOW, UKDIS GENEVA
INFO PRIORITY MODUK

SIC
MODUK FOR ACDS (POL AND NUC) AND AUS (POL)
ABM TREATY VIOLATION
SUMMARY

1. NEW US/SOVIET TALKS ON KRASNOYARSK.

DETAIL

2. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOW COME FORWARD WITH MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE FURTHER TALKS ON THE KRASNOYARSK RADAR (TEBBIT'S TELELETTER OF 14 OCTOBER TO LEVER, NOT TO ALL). THE TALKS WILL BEGIN IN GENEVA ON 31 OCTOBER, BURNS (DIRECTOR ACDA) EXPECTED TO LEAD FOR THE US SIDE.

3. THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT HOWEVER MADE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL ON HOW THE VIOLATION OF THE ABM TREATY MIGHT BE CORRECTED. THE ONLY COMMENT HAS BEEN GERASIMOV'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON 27 OCTOBER THAT THE RADAR WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND CONVERTED INTO A CIVILIAN SPACE RESEARCH CENTRE. THE US POSITION REMAINS THAT SUCH AN OFFER WOULD NOT MEET THE CRITERIA OF DESTROYING THE FACILITY'S POTENTIAL FOR ANTI-MISSILE DEFENCE AND ITS RAPID RESTORATION TO SUCH USE. DISMANTLEMENT OF THE RADAR AND BUILDINGS IS STILL SEEN AS THE ONLY WAY OF MEETING THESE CONCERNS. THERE IS THEREFORE CONSIDERABLE SCEPTICISM HERE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR REACHING AGREEMENT.

4. NEVERTHELESS THE ADMINISTRATION IS READY (CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS SAY TOO READY) TO LISTEN TO THE DETAILS OF ANY SOVIET PROPOSALS, GIVEN THE POLITICAL INTEREST IN AVOIDING A SHOWDOWN AT THE END OF THE REAGAN PRESIDENCY. IT IS RELEVANT IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE PENTAGON HAVE YET TO PRODUCE THE LIST OF 'PROPORTIONATE' MILITARY RESPONSE OPTIONS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS CALLED FOR BY 1 NOVEMBER. THIS NEW MEETING PROVIDES FURTHER GROUNDS FOR EXPECTING THE ISSUE TO BE PLAYED LONG.

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