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TELNO 3095

OF 301830Z DECEMBER 88

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL CSCE VIENNA, MOSCOW, UKDEL NATO

VIENNA MEETING AND MOSCOW CONFERENCE

OUR TELNO 3093

SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON MOSCOW CONFERENCE NOW PREDICTED IN THE PERIOD 31 DECEMBER-3 JANUARY. EXPECTED TO BE POSITIVE WITH ONLY IMPLICIT CONDITIONALITY. MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT AND SHULTZ ENVISAGED.

DETAIL

2. BOHLEN HAS NOW TOLD US THAT SHULTZ COULD APPROACH THE PRESIDENT AS EARLY AS NEW YEAR'S EVE, WHEN BOTH WILL BE AT THE ANNUAL ANNENBURG PARTY IN PALM SPRINGS. IN ANY EVENT, THE DECISION IS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN BY 3 JANUARY. THE EXACT TIMING AND SUBSTANCE ARE NOW OUT OF THE HANDS OF STATE DEPARTMENT OR NSC, GIVEN THAT BOTH PRINCIPALS ARE IN CALIFORNIA.

3. THE RECOMMENDATION FROM SHULTZ IS HOWEVER THAT A STRAIGHT 'YES' SHOULD BE GIVEN, WITHOUT EXPLICIT CONDITIONALITY MAKING AGREEMENT TO GO TO MOSCOW PROVISIONAL ON RESOLUTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. OFFICIALS MAINTAIN HOWEVER THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT BE LET COMPLETELY OFF THE HOOK, SINCE THE PROPOSED RESPONSE WOULD IMPLY THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING PROCESS ON THE BASIS OF QUOTE WE HAVE TO KEEP DOING WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING. UNQUOTE.

4. BOHLEN ADDED THAT AS SOON AS THE DECISION WAS TAKEN THERE WOULD BE A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND, PROBABLY, A TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION FROM SHULTZ. SHE EXPECTED THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD BE INFORMED BY LETTER FROM SHULTZ TO SHEVARDNAZDE WHICH WOULD SPELL OUT THE EXPECTATION THAT PROGRESS WOULD CONTINUE. WE HAVE ASKED TO BE INFORMED BEFORE ANYTHING GOES TO MOSCOW, ALTHOUGH TIMING IS LIKELY AT BEST TO BE TIGHT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE WORRY ABOUT LEAKS. (TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST ALREADY CARRIES A WELL INFORMED ARTICLE BY DON OBERDORFER PREDICTING A POSITIVE DECISION IN CALIFORNIA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS).

5. ACCORDING TO STATE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT INFORMATION, THE MAIN HIGHLIGHTS IN PROGRESS ON MEETING THE CONDITIONS ARE THAT ALL PRISONERS UNDER THE FOUR 'POLITICAL CRIME' ARTICLES HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED. BILATERAL CASES ARE NOW REDUCED TO 9 OUTSTANDING AFTER 2 SUCCESSES YESTERDAY INCLUDING THE STOLAR CASE, 50 MORE LONG TERM REFUSINIKS, MOSTLY IN THE LENINGRAD AREA, HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE AND PROGRESS CONTINUES TO BE MADE IN SETTING UP THE MECHANISM FOR DISPUTED CASES, ALTHOUGH THE US HAS YET TO SECURE AGREEMENT TO THE INVESTIGATORS IT WISHES TO APPOINT. BUT THE BASIC JUDGEMENT HERE IS THAT PROGRESS ACHIEVED SO FAR IS SUFFICIENTLY ENCOURAGING TO EXPECT IT TO

CONTINUE AFTER AGREEMENT TO THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

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