

RESTRICTED

FM UKDEL VIENNA
TO DESKBY 020830Z FCO
TELNO 003
OF 011845Z MARCH 1989
AND TO DESKBY 020730Z UKDEL NATO
INFO PRIORITY BONN
INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW, MODUK

SIC EME
MODUK FOR DACU
UKDEL NATO FOR GOULDEN/LEVER

CFE: SOVIET PROPOSAL

1. HARTMANN (FRG) GAVE THE NATO CFE CAUCUS ON 1 MARCH AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KARPOV IN BONN ON 27 FEBRUARY.

2. KARPOV SAID THE WARSAW PACT WOULD TABLE A PROPOSAL AT THE START OF THE NEGOTIATION. PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AGREEING THE ARMAMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED AND THE CEILINGS TO BE APPLIED TO THEM. THE LATTER SHOULD BE SET AT 10-15% BELOW THE CURRENT HOLDINGS OF THE WEAKER SIDE. THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON OFFENSIVE ARMAMENTS :TANKS, ARTILLERY, OTHER FIGHTING VEHICLES, COMBAT HELICOPTERS AND ATTACK AIRCRAFT. THE INCLUSION OF THE LATTER WAS 'UNAVOIDABLE' AND 'INEVITABLE'.

3. KARPOV ADDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD PROPOSE, IN ADDITON TO OVERALL LIMITATIONS ON ARMAMENTS, MEASURES COVERING A REGION ALONG THE DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. HE APPEARED TO ENVISAGE THIS MEASURE APPLYING ONLY IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

4. KARPOV ALSO INSISTED THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE CEILINGS ON PERSONNEL, AS WELL AS ARMAMENTS.

5. ON DATA, KARPOV SUGGESTED THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALLIED AND WARSAW PACT FIGURES COULD BE EXPLAINED BY DIFFERENT COUNTING RULES. ACCORDINGLY, THERE SHOULD BE EARLY DISCUSSION OF THE LATTER. THIS, KARPOV HOPED, WOULD RESULT IN THE DISCREPANCIES DISAPPEARING. ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS COUNTING RULES EVEN IF THERE WAS NOT YET AGREEMENT ON THE ARMAMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED, KARPOV THOUGHT THIS WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM. KARPOV HAD FIRST SUGGESTED THAT DATA SHOULD BE DISAGGREGATED DOWN TO THE DIVISION/BRIGADE LEVEL, BUT WHEN THE GERMANS SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DOWN TO THE BATTALION LEVEL, KARPOV SAID THEY WOULD BE

WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS.

COMMENT

6. HARTMANN SAID HIS ACCOUNT WAS ONLY A SUMMARY OF A FIVE HOUR DISCUSSION. THERE MIGHT THEREFORE BE VALUE IN BONN SEEKING FURTHER DETAILS FROM THE AUSWAERTIGE AMT.

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