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MDADAN 8285

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FM MOSCOW
TO DESKBY 120800Z FCO
TELNO 788
OF 120619Z MAY 89
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INFO IMMEDIATE OTHER CSCE POSTS, HAVANA, PEKING, ACTOR

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OUR TEL 769 (NOT TO ALL): SOVIET UNION/UNITED STATES
BAKER VISIT TO MOSCOW
SUMMARY

1. GORBACHEV PULLS TWO MORE RABBITS FROM THE HAT. SOVIET PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON REST OF THE VISIT STRESS CONSOLIDATION OF THE DIALOGUE, WHICH THE RUSSIANS ARE GLAD TO RESUME. DIFFERENCES ON ARMS CONTROL AND REGIONAL ISSUES REMAIN. DISCUSSION OF A SUMMIT PUT OFF TO SEPTEMBER.

DETAIL

2. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, BAKER, VISITED MOSCOW FOR TALKS ON 10-11 MAY. HE WAS RECEIVED BY GORBACHEV ON THE SECOND DAY.
ARMS CONTROL

3. AT THAT MEETING GORBACHEV TOLD BAKER THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD WITHDRAW 500 TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARHEADS FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO ITS OWN TERRITORY. THESE 500 WOULD BE MADE UP AS FOLLOWS 166 AVIATION WEAPONS, 50 ARTILLERY SHELLS AND 284 MISSILE WARHEADS. HE ALSO OFFERED TO WITHDRAW BY 1991, ALL NUCLEAR MUNITIONS DEPLOYED ON THE TERRITORY OF HIS ALLIES, IF THE AMERICANS WOULD DO THE SAME. SHEVARDNADZE TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON 11 MAY THAT, AT AMERICAN REQUEST, THESE FIGURES WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL 12 MAY. WE HEAR FROM THE BBC THAT BAKER HAS BRIEFED THE TRAVELLING PRESS EN ROUTE TO BRUSSELS.

4. GORBACHEV ALSO OUTLINED THE SOVIET CFE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN UKDEL VIENNA TELNO 49 TO FCO

5. GORBACHEV PRESSED STRONGLY ON MODERNISATION, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL TASS ACCOUNT. HE DESCRIBED IT AS BEING CONCERN NOT JUST TO THE SOVIET UNION, NOT JUST TO EASTERN EUROPE, BUT TO EUROPE AS A WHOLE. HE ADVANCED THE ARGUMENT THAT ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET UNION HAD SACRIFICED THE SS23 FOR THE SAKE OF THE INF TREATY, FOTL WOULD BE AN ANALOGOUS SYSTEM. HE QUESTIONED THE RATIONALE FOR MODERNISATION SINCE CFE WOULD IN ITS FIRST STAGE ELIMINATE THE CONVENTIONAL DISBALANCE. HE ALSO MADE A VAGUE ATTEMPT AT LINKAGE.

6. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON RESUMING THE NST IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH, GORBACHEV USED HIS MEETING WITH BAKER TO UNDERLINE SOVIET

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CONCERN ABOUT ALCMS, SLCMS AND THE ABM TREATY.

7. ACCORDING TO TASS, GORBACHEV ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND UNITED STATES START WORK ON A BILATERAL VERIFIABLE AGREEMENT ON CESSATION OF WEAPONS PRODUCTION, AND THAT THEY ISSUE A JOINT STATEMENT ON CW. HE ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT TEST BAN MORATORIUM.

BILATERAL

8. BOTH GORBACHEV AND SHEVARDNADZE SOUGHT AND GOT A DISAVOWAL OF CHENEY'S ''PERSONAL'' VIEW OF PERESTROKA'S CHANCES OF SUCCESS FOREIGN MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS

9. THE BULK OF THE TWO DAYS WAS TAKEN UP WITH MEETINGS BETWEEN BAKER AND SHEVARDNADZE EITHER DISCUSSING DIRECTLY OR HEARING REPORTS FROM THE FIVE WORKING GROUPS (ARMS CONTROL, REGIONAL, BILATERAL, TRANSNATIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES).

10. BRIEFING THE PRESS SHEVARDNADZE SAID THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAD INHERITED A ''UNIQUE COLLECTION OF ASSETS'' IN THE SOVIET-AMERICAN DIALOGUE. THE RUSSIANS HAD SHOWN UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PAUSE WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION CONDUCTED ITS REVIEW. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING CONTINUITY. HE HOPED THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE COURSE THEY HAD EMBARKED ON. HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT BAKER HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO INDICATE WHAT THE AMERICAN POSITION WOULD BE AT THE NST WHEN THEY RESUMED.

11. SHEVARDNADZE PICKED OUT CENTRAL AMERICA, AFGHANISTAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE REGIONAL AGENDA. AT A BRIEFING ON 10 MAY GERASIMOV HAD SAID THAT LONG DISCUSSION OF CENTRAL AMERICA HAD REVEALED SOME COMMON GROUND, BUT MUCH MORE DISAGREEMENT. DISCUSSION OF CENTRAL AMERICA WAS STARTING FORM A POOR BASE. SHEVARDNADZE CONFIRMED THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON NARROWING THEIR DIFFERENCES.

12. SHEVARDNADZE GAVE A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW TRANSNATIONAL BASKET. THERE HAD BEEN CONSOLIDAITON IN THE BILATERAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUPS.

13. BAKER AND SHEVARDNADZE HAD AGREED TO MEET AT LEAST 3 OR 4 TIMES A YEAR. SHEVARDNADZE SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF A SUMMIT HAD COME UP. BOTH SIDES WANTED TO SEE SUMMIT MEETINGS BECOME A NORMAL PART OF THE DIALOGUE, AND MINIMISE THE BALLY-HOO ATTENDING THEM. THE QEUSTION OF THE NEXT SUMMIT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WHEN HE AND BAKER MET IN SEPTEMBER.

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