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OF 311700Z OCTOBER 89
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US/SOVIET SUMMIT**SUMMARY**

1. US/SOVIET SUMMIT PLANNED FOR DECEMBER INTENDED TO ENABLE BUSH AND GORBACHEV TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED AND AS LEAD IN TO FURTHER SUMMIT NEXT JUNE.

DETAIL

2. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPE CONFIRMED TO THE MINISTER OF STATE ON 31 OCTOBER THAT THE US/SOVIET SUMMIT REPORTED IN THAT DAY'S WASHINGTON POST TO BE IN PROSPECT FOR DECEMBER WOULD INDEED TAKE PLACE. IT HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHERE, THOUGH ON A SHIP IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WAS ONE POSSIBILITY. THE AMERICANS HAD DECIDED ON WHAT WOULD IN EFFECT BE AN INTERIM MEETING BEFORE THE SESSION ALREADY AGREED FOR JUNE 1990, BECAUSE OF A COMBINATION OF INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS, THE PACE OF CHANGE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR, AND A DESIRE ON THE PRESIDENT'S PART TO BUILD UP HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GORBACHEV. SINCE THE AIM WOULD BE TO ENABLE THE TWO MEN TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER, SEITZ DID NOT EXPECT ANY VERY DRAMATIC RESULTS FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING. HE THOUGHT SIGNATURE OF THE VERIFICATION PROTOCOLS OF TTBT AND PNET WAS PROBABLE. IT WAS TOO SOON TO KNOW WHETHER THE START PROCESS WOULD BE AFFECTED THOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT POSSIBLE. THERE WOULD NOW BE TWO MEETINGS, PROBABLY IN FEBRUARY AND APRIL, BETWEEN BAKER AND SHEVARDNADZE.

3. PRESIDENT BUSH WANTED, ACCORDING TO SEITZ, TO GET AWAY FROM ANY EXPECTATION THERE WOULD BE A NEW TREATY EACH TIME A SUMMIT TOOK PLACE. THE ARMS CONTROL PROCESS OUGHT NOT TO DRIVE

THE US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. REGIONAL ISSUES WOULD BE A MAJOR CONCERN IN DECEMBER, HE DID NOT EXPECT FORMAL EXCHANGES ON EASTERN EUROPE OR GERMANY, BUT THE LID HAD BEEN LIFTED A LITTLE ON THESE SUBJECTS IN INFORMAL SESSIONS BEFORE. ECONOMIC ISSUES WOULD ALSO BE ON THE AGENDA. THE AMERICANS WERE CONCERNED AT SURVIVALS OF OLD THINKING IN THE SOVIET UNION. BAKER HAD PRESENTED TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR LAST WEEK IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING SMUGGLING OF SOVIET ARMS TO THE FMLN IN EL SALVADOR, FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF A TRUNK WITH WEAPONS HIDDEN UNDER FURNITURE AT THE HONDURAS BORDER. THE REPLY GIVEN BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON 30 OCTOBER HAD BEEN EVASIVE. THE AMERICANS LOOKED TO THE RUSSIANS TO LIVE UP TO THE UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY SHEVARDNADZE TO BAKER IN WYOMING.

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